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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On the 8th June, at No. 10, Stewart Terrace, Peak, the wife of J. P. COTTAM, of a son.

DEATH.

On Saturday, 9th inst., at his residence, No. 26, Elgin Street, ABDOL RAZACK MADAR, aged 58 years. Deeply regretted. Indian papers please copy.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 2nd May arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, on the 12th June (41 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

M. Pavloff, the Russian Minister at Seoul, is reported to have returned to his post on the 30th ult. from Port Arthur.

Christmas Island is annexed to the Straits Settlements by proclamation. The annexation took effect on the 10th June.

There is a report that Sun Yat-sun, the hero of the great kidnapping case in London some time ago, has been captured by Gen. Yuan in Shantung.

It was announced at the beginning of the week that Sir F. Swettenham had been laid up with a severe attack of fever ever since his arrival at Weihaiwei.

Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, the new Chief Justice of H. M. Supreme Court, was expected at Shanghai from Yokohama by the N.D.L.S. *Sachsen* on Thursday or Friday last week.

Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, H. B. M.'s Consul at Yokohama, has left for Europe via Siberia. The new U.S. Consul-General at the port is to be Mr. E. C. Bellows, of Washington.

It is alleged on seemingly good authority, the *Japan Mail* says, that Marquis Yamagata has resigned, and that the Japanese Emperor asked first Marquis Ito and afterwards Count Matsukata to form a Cabinet, but both statesmen declined. There remains, therefore, no course except a consultation of the elder statesmen in the presence of the Sovereign.

Bubonic plague, after a short cessation of nearly two weeks, has reappeared in Manila, two cases being discovered on the 10th inst., one in the Escolta, the main thoroughfare of the town. Both victims are Chinese.

Great uneasiness is reported from Newchwang, whither the Boxer agitation has spread. The merchants there are said to have telegraphed to their houses at Shanghai to stop all shipments of cargo. The Russian troops are closely guarding the Port Arthur-Moukden railway.

It is stated that Mr. Sands, adviser to the Korean Foreign Office, has memorialized the Government, urging the imperative necessity of completely remodelling the laws and judicial procedure of the country, not only in the interests of civilization, but also because the independence of the empire is exposed to constant danger by the provisions and methods now in force.

The withdrawal of the regular troops from the British Shan States is now in contemplation, and they will be replaced by the Military Police. It is not intended, however, to withdraw at once the whole of the military garrison from Keng Tung in the neighbourhood of the Mekong Valley. Two companies instead of a wing of a Burma Battalion will be stationed there for the present, but next year probably the post will be made over altogether to a detachment of Military Police.

The N. C. *Daily News* reports that despatches have been received from Peking by the local mandarins stating that H. E. Shêng has been sent for by the Tsungli Yamen to go up to Peking at once, to investigate the recent destruction of the Northern Railway lines and to assist in the negotiations with the Foreign Ministers, which are expected to take place in the near future. If the negotiations end favourably to all concerned there is every probability that H. E. Shêng will be made a Vice-President of the Board of Works as a reward for his assistance.

According to a Shanghai native paper, there has been a great amount of kidnapping at Hankow recently; in fact it has been a daily occurrence. A kidnapper was caught lately and sent to the Hsia-kow magistrate, who, however, inflicted no punishment. The next two caught, therefore, on the 30th ult., were promptly beaten to death by the inhabitants of Hankow. It appears that the scare arose in connection with an idea that children are needed to be sacrificed to the foundations of the Lu-Han railway, as the recent Aberdeen scare at Hongkong was connected with the Canton-Kowloon line. Hanyang and Wuchang share Hankow's anxiety in this respect.

The local mandarins at Shanghai, according to the N. C. *Daily News*, have received despatches from Peking to the effect that the Tsungli Yamen has approved of a scheme of Viceroy Liu of Nanking to allow foreigners to buy and rent land in Paoshan district, outside of the Cosmopolitan Settlement Extension. The new area is to be south-east of the Sung-Wu (Shanghai-Woosung) Railway line, between the limits of the Extension and the New Rifle Butts. Title deeds are to be granted according to the custom hitherto in vogue in Shanghai, namely, stamped by the seal of the Taotai, the power of granting title deeds being taken away from the authorities of the Hui-Chang-Chü, or Land Office at Woosung.

The *Osaka Asahi* has received a telegram from Seoul, dated the 4th inst., stating that the U.S. Minister has applied to the Korean Government asking for permission to export the gold bullion produced at the Unzan Mine by way of the White River in Ping-an-do, and also for the extension of the charter for working the Unzan Mine to 50 years. No answer has yet been given by the Korean Government.

The Russian Imperial authorities recently made a grant of £320 to the Institute of Oriental Languages at Vladivostok for the purpose of enabling certain students to undertake a journey to China during the month of May. The Russian commercial firms established in China expressed their willingness to give the students in question free board and lodging during their trip to China.

A Seoul telegram to the *Osaka Asahi*, under date of the 4th inst., states that Li lu-yu, the President of the Supreme Court, Judge Tai Mei-seki, and Procurator Cho Ho-kwan, who sentenced An and Kwong to death, have been exiled to the Tetsu Island in Whanghai-do. Speaking of an impression conveyed by Japanese journals that Mr. Hayashi has not taken up a sufficiently resolute attitude with regard to these murders the *Japan Mail* points out that the Japanese Representative in Seoul had to choose one of two courses; either to insist that the Emperor has been guilty of a deliberate breach of faith or else to accept the explanations offered, namely, that the acts of the judicial officials concerned in the trial were alike unknown and unsanctioned by the Sovereign. "There is, however, no room for selection," says the *Mail*. "If the Emperor pleads ignorance and punishes the offending officials—and he is understood to have done both—Japan can not reasonably demand any further reparation. It may be disappointing to some people that there are not to be any fireworks, but the situation does not admit of them. What we hope is that Japan will make such representations as shall lead to the final abolishment of judicial torture in Corea."

The Governor, of Hongkong Sir Henry Blake, has been interviewed by a representative of the *Herald* at Kobe, where he arrived on the 30th ult. From the account published it appears that Sir Henry Blake, although on a pleasure trip merely, is intensely interested in the recent news from China, and he does not hesitate to admit that the situation is critical. He does not, however, continue the *Herald*, attach credence to the view that the Tsungli Yamen is working in unison with the Boxers. Rather is he disposed to attribute the outbreak of lawlessness and the present activity of the Boxers to causes which briefly may be summed up thus; bad weather, failure of crops, ignorance and prejudice. The country Sir Henry passed over between Tientsin and Peking and between Peking and Shanghai he describes as arid and barren, owing to the lack of rain. That this condition of things has contributed to bring about the prevalent feeling of unrest is quite probable and that it has been taken advantage of to fan the ever-smouldering hostility to foreign influences, more particularly foreign religious influences, is equally probable. Sir Henry thinks it possible that complications will arise out of the sanguinary attacks upon Roman Catholic Chinese, as it is well known that France is prepared to extend her protection to all such.

THE BOXER OUTBREAK.

(Daily Press, 13th June.)

The Treaty Powers, after a protracted fit of consideration, appear to be at last awake to the fact that the position at Peking is precarious. The Foreign Representatives have become so accustomed to living in an atmosphere of intrigue and uncertainty that it took them some time to realise that the movement initiated by the so-called Boxers was actually levelled against foreigners generally, and might even bring discomfort on the Legations eventually. So they have now obtained a body of sailors and marines from the Foreign Fleets, and now the British and Russian Governments are bestirring themselves to send troops to Tientsin. It is reported from Shanghai that the Russians have landed 4,000 at Tongku and that Admiral SEYMOUR has landed a Naval Brigade at Taku and forced his way toward Peking in an armed train as far as Lofa. Meanwhile instructions have been received here from home to get ready a force of a thousand men for despatch North if required, and this is now equipped and held in readiness. What it is expected to accomplish with a body of two thousand men we cannot pretend to say. Perhaps it is hoped that by joining forces with Russia, and inducing the friends of order in China to rally round them, it will be possible to upset the existing maladministration at Peking, and set up a new and strong Government under the Emperor KWANG SU. There is such wild talk of the widespread nature of the conspiracy of which the "Boxers" are the visible outcome, but although the association numbers perhaps hundreds of thousands it must be remembered that only a small percentage are effectively armed, and fewer still have the smallest knowledge of military discipline. Unless they are backed up by the Chinese Government and stiffened by the presence among them of Chinese troops they would not be able to make any stand against the disciplined soldiers or sailors of the West. The danger in a case of this kind always lies in delay; the longer the blow is deferred, the higher rise the hopes and the spirits of the rebels. It is not, however, wholly or solely against the Boxer organisation that a blow must be struck: the weak and corrupt Manchu Government needs a sharp lesson. Indeed no further trust can be reposed in an administration which has shown itself at once so puerile and so unfriendly. The sympathies of the Manchu princes and mandarins have avowedly been given to the bellicose Boxers; the Empress Dowager is believed, with good reason, to wish their movement success; and it is reported that these rowdies have secretly received encouragement from officials in high places. Now the conspiracy that the mandarins fondly hoped to make an instrument wherewith to accomplish the destruction of the Caucasian in China has not yet been wrought into a convenient weapon. Full of violence and vanity, the Boxers are yet seemingly without a plan, and simply spend their energies in burning, devastating, and wasting property, taking life when there is no possibility of successful resistance, unwilling to attack any but unarmed peasantry, peaceful missionaries and unoffending engineers in small parties. No doubt the sight of a battalion of European troops or sailors would produce a panic in their ranks more especially if treated with a bayonet charge. But it is one thing to disperse a horde of undisciplined Chinese; it is quite another matter to hold a great country like, say the province of Chihli, and preserve order in its capital by the aid of a few thousand men. It is true that the Allied Forces

of England and France held Canton for four years, 1858-61, with only a few thousand soldiers, and possibly Peking would prove no more difficult to govern. But at that time the Chinese did not possess the arms of precision they now use, which go so far to equalise matters and discount individual prowess. The Chinese made little use of their arms during the Chino-Japanese War, it may be admitted, but the arms and ammunition did not then always tally, and the men were most disgracefully led. They would be handled no better now, and probably an easy victory would be gained; but the danger of under-valuing the enemy has been so frequently and painfully impressed upon us during the South African campaign, that we are not disposed to estimate the Boxers too low. Their fanatic belief in their own invulnerability is a force to be reckoned with, and one that is likely to impel them to deeds of daring which no son of Han under other circumstances would venture to essay. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Treaty Powers are not about to undertake the overthrow of the Central Government of China and the substitution of a new machinery of administration without taking ample precautions to support and maintain the fresh dispensation.

(Daily Press 15th June.)

That the present position in North China is full of dangerous eventualities no one, who has paid any attention to the progress of events, cannot doubt, nor is it easy to forecast the issue. The events of the last few weeks are certainly due to that morbid state of somnolence which has been, as it were, epidemic for many years in Peking, and which in its most severe form has always disastrously affected the surroundings of the British Legation, even more seriously than its neighbours. Notoriously the British Legation has always been the last to obtain information of any important movement in Peking. Did this misfortune consort with a simple absence of positive knowledge, we might feel reasonably happy at the result. In the case of the British Legation it is, however, its peculiar function to be, in the great majority of interesting events, not only profoundly ignorant, but misinformed, and we have had frequently to refer to its too absolute dependence on the Inspectorate General, or second-hand news wired from the Chinese Legation in Portland Place. The indifference, with which the *coup d'etat* of September 1898 was regarded by the British Government, has always seemed prophetic of some disaster to our prestige in Peking. It has certainly been taken advantage of by the Continental Powers as an indication of our growing indifference to our position as a leading Power in the East; and working slowly but surely under the cover of this indifference, those Powers, whose interests rather lay in the promotion of anarchy, have been able to push the sap without disturbance. It is instructive to watch how very different have been the measures taken by the several Powers during the present crisis, and how very perfunctory has been the part played by the British, who, instead of being in the van, have been quite content for long to occupy a secondary position in the crowd. Utterly irrespective of the question whether it is politic to make of Weihaiwei an important centre for further advance, it is at least advisable that it should not become a source of contempt. The neglect of our Government to do anything so far has been evident in the present crisis. It is no wonder that Russia has obligingly come to the front, and offered to send a couple of thousand Cos-

sacks to put the Chinese Empire on its legs again. The incident would be scarcely worthy of notice, except as a very clear indication of how insignificant are the remains of our once well-secured predominance at Peking. That predominance we have lost, not by any reverse at arms, nor by any diminution in our powers of defence or offence, but simply by our want of appreciation of events going on around as due to that cloud of intense ignorance with which we elected to surround ourselves. We hope, therefore, that we may look on the despatch of troops from this Colony as the beginning of a more worthy British policy in China.

Many of us remember the early aspirations of Lord SALISBURY to make China a bulwark against the advance of Russia. The utter absurdity of the project was exposed at the time by the entire English press in China, aided eventually by the home papers. We may remember, too, how Lord WOLSELEY foretold the coming invasion of the world by China, become under a regenerated Government the mistress of her own destinies. Lord SALISBURY has, it is true, learnt many things since then, but it is evident that much of the old prejudice cleaves to him still. China, however, it is well to remember, may yet become a formidable menace; but if she do, we may rest assured it will not be as China, but under the yoke of some stronger Power. This is the situation that our Prime Minister has half grasped, and has shown to others by his policy that he dreads; yet by as strange fatuity, almost like that of China herself in her present attraction to Russia, he, by his indifference and blind dependence on others, has actually been instrumental in fostering. Yet if we read the signs aright there are in the field already influences making strongly for good. If the Continental Powers as a whole seek in the destruction of the Chinese power to gain their own territorial ends, there are others besides Great Britain herself who have no such interest. Foremost amongst this is of course the United States; America is being forced willy-nilly into prominence as a factor in the affairs of the world; and nowhere, outside the boundaries of the States, are her interests of greater importance than in China. Of the interests of Australia and Canada in the issue we have already spoken; they cannot be disregarded by any British Minister in the near future. In addition to these there is, moreover, Japan. It is true that Japan, or a large faction in Japan, talk openly of a policy of annexation; but Japan has already essayed the policy, and found it in the last degree unsatisfactory. At all events Japan knows even better than England that her own existence is now bound up in the defeat of Russian aspirations to exclusive predominance in Asia; and an intelligent and active British Minister will, from the very necessities of the case, always find himself energetically supported from both these sides. Now it is true that the principal statesmen in America have begun to recognise this phase of the question, and there is good reason to believe that Lord SALISBURY has already been approached. So far the position is satisfactory, and if the exigencies of the moment are sufficiently grasped by the Minister, the situation is capable of being turned to profitable account. It is precisely here, however, that Lord SALISBURY's peculiar weakness always comes to the front; we need not do more than refer to his failure at the beginning of the crisis, when the occupation of Port Arthur was in question. Lord SALISBURY might not be capable of the surrender after Majuba, but he is inherently possessed of a mind subject

to similar defects; and it is this that justifies our continued doubts as to the results of his policy at Peking.

BRITAIN AND THE OTHER POWERS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 12th June.)

Although the limp and nerveless policy of Lord SALISBURY in China has brought about its natural results, and England is certainly of less consideration than ever before in the Far East, there are already signs of some turn in the tide. It is unlikely that the Prime Minister himself will at this eleventh hour awake to a clearer understanding of the issues at stake; men do not usually, after the grand climacteric is past, change their opinions for more advanced ideas; and as Lord SALISBURY this year attains the age of seventy, it is unlikely that any forward policy will be due to his initiative. Indications, however, there are in the increased attention being shown to affairs in China that even our present Foreign Secretary may be compelled to follow the indications of general opinion. The recent outrages of the *I-Hwo Chuan*, although their attentions have not been particularly directed towards England or English interests, have at last convinced the most incredulous that the movement is not one that can be lightly disregarded. There is no doubt that the movement is the direct outcome of the truculent policy of the Empress Dowager, and as England alone attempted, though feebly enough, to counteract that policy, this amiable lady has conceived a deadly hatred to England and everything English, which, if rightly manipulated, should in the long run prove advantageous to our interests. Next to England, and so far even greater losers, have been the United States. When only England was to be reckoned with, the old policy of abstention, which marked in the early days her intercourse with China, gained for America many important advantages; but times have changed since this policy was possible, and America has found herself compelled to take a more prominent part in the affairs of the world at large. It is fortunate that on the whole the interests of the States are in agreement with, rather than opposed to, those of the British Empire, and it is a source of some satisfaction that this close similarity of interests has come to be recognised by all but an irreconcilable party. The differences between England and the States are no doubt great and important, but they are not of a nature to prevent the two nations working in harmony when opportunity serves, and this under the lead of Mr. HAY has been gradually working toward a closer understanding in China. The present situation in China is one in which the two nations can act in a common interest; and we are pleased to see that this fact has met with recognition both in Washington and Downing Street. Neither England nor America have any interest in the partition of China; both now see that if the present disorders be permitted to go unchecked, the result must be the entire disintegration of the state; and if such an event occur, the only policy likely to be acceptable to the Continental Powers is the old one of "the Devil take the hindmost." That such a policy must end in a serious quarrel no one can deny, nor is there any reasonable doubt that a general European war would inevitably result. In that war, however opposed to its traditional policy, America would be compelled to take a leading part; and, as from both her resources and her propinquity to the field of action she would have a vast advantage, the prospect is becoming a factor in the schemes

of the military Powers. Like England, the States have no desire to bring about such a condition, nor does either desire in the East further territorial aggrandisement; and both would willingly join in any policy which could restore to China an efficient administration. It is true our efforts in artificially keeping alive moribund states have elsewhere met with but scant success. The latest of all, that of reviving a kingdom in Samoa, will be well remembered in America, nor can the case of Hawaii be yet forgotten. Still anything is better than anarchy, and if the two nations could light on any practical plan to get rid of the present incubus at Peking, and set up in its place something better, it is possible that the evil might eventually be deferred, for our generation at least, even if not permanently postponed. So far, the worst of the position at Peking has been that both Russia and France have seemed to seek their advantage in rendering affairs still more complicated. It is this position that renders the crisis practically insoluble. If the representatives of the Powers at Peking decide on one common course, no doubt the difficulty can be shortly overcome; but the Powers have hitherto shown by many indications that their wishes are by no means alike, and that the divergencies are too great to permit of any reasonable settlement being arrived at. Fortunately the preliminary difficulties in the South African states have been removed, and England's hands are once more free. On the other hand the prevailing apathy of the British Ministry has permitted our fleet in Pacific waters to be unseasonably depleted. The Government will have constitutionally to appeal to the country within a few months at furthest, and it would be well were our constituencies reminded of the importance of the issues depending in Asia.

TARIFF REVISION.

(Daily Press, 11th June.)

Some time ago in these columns we spoke of certain rumours being very assiduously spread about by certain, evidently interested, individuals to the effect that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD had agreed to the raising of the customs Tariff. It has been for a long time patent that a simple increase of the present Tariff, unaccompanied by revision, and unencumbered by any stipulations as to the removal of growing abuses was in the hearts of the present faction in power at Peking; and of this faction LI HUNG-CHANG, the present Viceroy of the Liangkwan was the leading spirit. In the absence of any man with knowledge of statecraft, LI has played a role out of proportion to his ability, and it is no credit to our English representatives, official or mercantile, that they have tacitly concurred in this over-estimation of the individual, and have even sided him in some of the most retrogressive of his schemes. There was a time when the Customs Service in China still preserved a portion of that independence of thought which justified its first establishment; circumstances have changed all that, and for good or evil the service has become simply the reflection of the temporary feeling at Peking, and obeys the commands of its employers as any other department of the state. Whether this altered position of affairs is of advantage to either China or ourselves it is not for us to discuss; the fact remains and has a very important bearing at the present moment. The rumour to which we pointed the other day emanated, there is no doubt, from members of the Foreign Customs Service, and was intended to place difficulties in the way of the adjustment of the Tariff. As how-

ever a straw indicates the direction of the wind, the nature of the rumour may serve to show the influences at work to render any useful adjustment of the Tariff difficult, if not impracticable. Unfortunately there is still remaining in many minds an opinion that the entire Customs Service will be found to lend a willing assistance in the work of revision; that individuals will do so there is no reason to doubt, but that the service as a whole will be found on the side of revision it would be contrary to our experience of human nature to believe possible. The recent action of the service in rendering nugatory the opening of the inland waters is an instructive case in point; and there is unfortunately every reason to believe that the same obstructive means will be adopted in the present instance. Now, we do not seek to lay the blame on individuals, nor on the Service at large, but rather on our own authorities for failing to perceive the causes at work. As long as the circumstances under which the Service was inaugurated remained unchanged, it was natural to consider it as bound to foreign interests, but this has long ceased to be the case, and it is misleading and dangerous to trust to the tradition long after the reality has departed. The reason of the undoubted breakdown of British Diplomacy at Peking is largely due to the simple-minded credulity of our Foreign Office in trusting rather to the interested assertions of Portland Place, or the Inspectorate General, than in listening to the reports of its own officials or lending an ear to the complaints of the British residents in the spot. Under these circumstances it is with mixed feelings of satisfaction and apprehension that the British communities in China have learnt from Mr. St. JOHN BRODRICK that the work of revision of the Tariff is to be left to the Minister at Peking. On the wisdom of the step we do not for a moment doubt, but (unfortunately there is a but in the case) everything will depend on the instructions with which the reference is accompanied. We learn that the new Commercial Attaché, Mr. J. W. JAMIESON, is already on his way out, and will doubtless have full instructions with regard to the Revision. In both the Minister and Mr. JAMIESON the communities have full confidence, and were the work left to them untrammelled by hampering conditions, we could look forward with some confidence to the result. Such, however, we fear is not in the mind of Lord SALISBURY, and it is in this fear that we have to utter a warning voice. With Lord SALISBURY the tradition of the single-mindedness of the Inspectorate-General is still a living entity, which, in spite of its invariable failure, when called on, still pursues him in his policy in China; we have had reason to descant plainly on the part taken by the Inspectorate in stultifying the work of the Minister as regards the opening of the inland waters. Only Lord SALISBURY is perhaps blind to the cause of his failure; but the weakness is of so long-standing that we fear that it has become chronic, and we confess that in the present composition of our Foreign Office we feel the greatest apprehension for the result.

The circumstances under which the French and Russian troops who were about to land at Taku were forced to re-embark, as reported in the *Echo de Chine*, are rather amusing. The troops in question were on lighters which followed the *I.C.S. Kingsing* into the Peiho. The *Kingsing* had a high official on board, and as she approached the forts they fired a salute in his honour. The troops construed this as an attack on themselves and returned to their ships. It was a perfectly natural mistake, and as the troops were defenceless on the lighters, the only thing they could do was to return as they did.

THE WATER SUPPLY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 10th June.)

The urgent subject of the Water Supply of Hongkong has been much to the front this year. In his recent report for 1899 the Medical Officer of Health pointed out that the Colony's water supply had again proved deficient last year, a service varying from one to four hours only having been allowed to the city for eight weeks during the period from April to June. "It is clear, therefore," he continued, "that the water-supply generally is inadequate for the needs of the population, and in view of the steady increase in the population I am more than ever convinced that there should be no further delay in setting up the necessary pumping plant and in providing reservoirs and service pipes for the supply of sea-water for all municipal purposes, unless a greatly increased fresh-water supply can be obtained at a less cost than that which would be incurred by the installation of such plant." Dr. CLARK then went on to deprecate the employment of good potable water, such as we are fortunate to possess in Hongkong, for the purposes of flushing the drains, etc. In supporting his motion before the Sanitary Board on Thursday he restated his case and put it still more strongly, pointing out that the present storage capacity for the city amounts to 500 million gallons and the utmost possible storage capacity, after the completion of Mr. F. A. COOPER's scheme, will be about 700 million gallons; and that only in very wet seasons will it be possible to have these reservoirs full. Mr. COOPER in his report in 1896 estimated the consumption of water per head at 15 gallons a day; since then it has risen to 17 gallons a day, so that, in Dr. CLARK's words, "that gentleman's sanguine expectations as to the sufficiency of our water-supply for some years to come have scarcely been realized." Dr. CLARK is whole-hearted in his advocacy of the installation of a sea-water supply. "The difficulties," he said, "with regard to the use of sea-water have been overcome in many even of the smaller sea-coast towns of England, and there is no excuse whatever why a city such as Victoria should longer delay in adopting what is now one of the most ordinary and commonplace methods for augmenting the water supply required for such purposes as are specified in the terms of the resolution," that is to say the watering of streets, the flushing of the main sewers, the extinction of fires, and the flushing of the many public urinals so urgently needed throughout the city. Mr. COOPER in 1896 did not disregard the possibility of employing sea-water for such purposes. He said: "Though the use of sea-water favours deposit in sewers, its adoption for street watering has advantages over the use of fresh water and may with advantage be used in comparatively level localities." He added, however: "Any project for the utilisation of sea-water in the City of Victoria owing to the varying elevation of the built area must necessarily involve the installation and maintenance of pumping machinery and the construction of service reservoirs in addition to those used for the water supplied for potable purposes. It would further be necessary to lay throughout the City a separate system of distribution-mains and hydrants." The cost of such a project, he stated, would not compare favourably with that of the scheme for increasing the storage of fresh water.

This question of cost stands in the way of the introduction of a scheme for sea-water, otherwise admirable on many grounds and

above all because of the possibility of a constant supply, which hitherto we have never been able to secure, for the very good reason that we have to depend on so capricious a factor as the rainfall. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that the Government will consent to appoint a committee, as suggested by the Sanitary Board, who may make an exhaustive enquiry into this vexed question and show whether it is or is not within the means of the Colony to adopt some system of sea-water flushing. Should the result of the enquiry be against the scheme, the necessity for increasing the fresh-water will become even more urgent than it is now. In the meantime, it must be remembered that, inadequate as our water supply is now, and though all indications point to a growth of population in the near future which must outstrip any possible increase of water storage, while even in the past a prolonged period of drought has always exposed Hongkong to the perils of a water famine or at best has led to the adoption of an intermittent supply at the most dangerous period of the year, as occurred in the great plague year of 1894—in spite of all this, if means were taken to check the present waste of water which is constantly going on, principally in the Chinese portions of the city, we should not be so often brought near to a water-famine as we have been. Were there no unnecessary waste and no illicit turning to commercial purposes of the water intended for domestic purposes only, we should not be so badly placed. There are not wanting many who consider that the supplying of a house to house system of water to the Chinese houses was a capital mistake. However, the supply is now furnished, and a means of checking waste has not been devised yet. Whether we agree with those who condemn the original supplying of water direct to the Chinese or not, whether a reversion to the old method of sanitation is impracticable, undesirable, or not, there can be no dispute that under the present system we cannot do without a greater water-supply and cannot afford to remain at the mercy of the rainfall. More water, be it fresh or salt, is a vital necessity, and it is incumbent on all interested in the health of the Colony to interest themselves in the problem how secure it.

THE OUTBREAK IN YUNNAN.

(Daily Press, 15th June.)

The news which comes from Yunnan of an anti-foreign outbreak confirms the idea that the so-called Boxer agitation is not merely the local affair which the authorities have persisted in regarding it, but is part of a general movement throughout the empire of the reactionary and exclusive elements. Indications of this have been constantly cropping up, most of them, it is true in the North, but gradually the South has been won over by agitators. Many believe, with our Tientsin correspondent, that only the influence of LI HUNG-CHANG has succeeded in keeping quiet the turbulent section in the Two Kwang. If so we have cause for much gratitude to the old Viceroy, in spite of the generally obstructive nature of his policy where British interests have been concerned. But the alarming feature of the Yunnan rising is the threat of complications with France. None of the Powers are concerned much with the extreme south-western province except ourselves and France; and as it is the growth of French influence in the south-east of the province which seems, from the brief words of our telegram, to be the immediate cause of the present disturbance, the situation

cannot be viewed with equanimity. If any organised attack is made on the French troops said to be at Mengtze—presumably under the name of consulate-guards—there is no doubt that France will grasp at the plausible excuse for further concessions tending to bring southern Yunnan within her sphere. Such an encroachment, it need not be said, cuts directly at the scheme for opening Szechuen and the Upper Yangtze to British trade, for once a railway is firmly established from this region to the Gulf of Tongking the chances of any other route competing successfully will be extremely shadowy. In the excitement engendered by the exertion of at last making a move in North China, it is to be trusted that our interests in the south-west will not be overlooked by the home Government, for, important as the northern question is, anything tending to affect the position of affairs in the Yangtze region is still more vital to our national interests.

THE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(Daily Press, 13th June.)

In the report of the Acting Postmaster-General for the year 1899, which by the way is rather late in its appearance (owing, no doubt, to recent changes in the Department), Mr. CORNEWALL LEWIS says:—"Beyond some changes in the style of sorting cases, there have been no improvements in the Post Office, nor has there been any increase in the much-needed space. Light and ventilation are much required, and, with the long hours obtaining in this office, I may remark both are essential to the health and well-being of the employés." He adds, what has been in every resident's mouth for years, "It is much to be desired that the new Post Office will soon be taken in hand." Seeing that it has been decided to rebuild the Post Office on its present site and part of that now occupied by the Supreme Court, and that the foundations of the new Law Courts are just about to be commenced, it will be at least four or five years before work on a new Post Office can even be commenced. This prospective delay is certainly much to be regretted. The building in which the Post Office is now domiciled was erected to accommodate the business of the department when it was about one-tenth of what it now is, and ingenuity has been exhausted in endeavouring to make the habitation suffice for the ever growing needs. The Government has long recognised the absolute impossibility of the work being efficiently performed in the present cramped quarters, and we are glad to learn that temporary measures are being adopted to increase the accommodation. This is being effected by the demolition of the servants' quarters and the erection on their site, north of the main building, of a new Sorting Room, where that important branch of work can be carried on with something like expedition and comfort. New servants' quarters have been erected at the back of the Land Office, and, though doubtless far from welcome there, they at least will be more out of the way. The new building, being strictly of the nature of a makeshift, will of course be of the plainest description consistent with its very prominent position. We trust that the provision of this greatly needed annexe to the Post Office will not, in any way, be allowed to cause the postponement or any delay in the erection of the projected public buildings. The Law Courts have been sanctioned, the plans approved, the supervising architect sent out, and we can only hope that the work of erection will proceed at a rate surpassing all expectation. Every

effort should be made to get the foundations laid at once and the granite for the exterior dressed ready by the time it is wanted.

NAVAL GUNS ON SHORE.

(Daily Press, 14th June.)

The community owe another debt of gratitude to H.E. the ACTING GOVERNOR for inducing Captain Scott and Captain LIMPUS to lecture publicly on "The Mountings of the Naval Guns and their subsequent use with the Ladysmith Relief Force." Nor by doing so has Major-General GASCOIGNE performed only a pleasing social function, for in the lecture given last night the two gallant Naval Officers have made a most valuable addition to that literature that will compose the history of the war and its lessons to the nation. "The Handy Man" is a name that will adhere to the sailor henceforth, and in Captain Scott we have the term exemplified. He is the "handy man," as was repeatedly instanced in the modest accounts given on Wednesday. No doubt, with the ability that Captain Scott possessed as a gunnery officer, the invention of a gun carriage at such a critical moment may have seemed to him, as he tries to explain that it really was, a very simple affair. He describes the carriage as merely "a log of wood to form a trail, mounted on an axletree with a pair of ordinary Cape waggon wheels," and yet without that invention Ladysmith would have fallen and the Tugela never been forced. Lord ROBERTS also has expressed his indebtedness to the naval guns. It is well here to quote Captain Scott's own words. "On Wednesday, the 25th October, General White, in Ladysmith, finding that he had no Artillery capable of keeping the Boer siege guns in check, wired to know if it were possible for the Navy to send him some long-range 4.7 Guns. The Admiral asked me if I could design a mounting for a 4.7 and get two finished by the following afternoon. It was rather a rush, but they were ready by 5 p.m., put on board the *Powerful* and she started with them, and four 12-prs. for Durban. Immediately on arrival Captain Lambton with great promptitude took the guns to Ladysmith. He arrived in the nick of time, and his Brigade played a most important part in the defence of Ladysmith. 48 hours after his arrival the door was closed, and the garrison remained beleaguered for 119 days. Such a performance was magnificent. Mr. H. W. WILSON, the well-known authority on Naval matters, in his interesting article on "Naval Brigades in War," says: "Captain PERCY SCOTT is a man whose name is now familiar to all, as the man who set to work to construct field carriages for a number of heavy naval guns. He knew the weakness of our land forces in artillery; he alone seems to have foreseen the part which heavy guns would play in the war; he supplied the palpable want, doing just the same work that PEELE did in the old mutiny days." Therefore the nation owes a big debt of gratitude to Captain Scott, and his part in the Natal campaign will never be forgotten. In addition to the guns Captain Scott also appears to have been responsible for giving to beleaguered Kimberley and Ladysmith communication with the outside world. It was he who fixed the searchlight on the railway cars which enabled messages to be exchanged between the besieged cities and the relieving forces. Then we next find Captain Scott as commandant of Durban, the city at which all the forces of the relieving column landed—the base really of the Natal force, and as administrator he seems to have been as useful and successful as in

the rôle of gunnery inventor. The task of administrator of a large city of Durban was not a light responsibility, threatened as the city was by depredatory bands of Boers, full to overflowing with indigent refugees and many spies and suspects. But so well did he accomplish the task that he received on leaving the hearty thanks of General BULLER, the Governor of Natal, and the Town Council of Durban. Surely then if anyone merited the name of "the handy man" it would be the brilliant naval officer who lectured last evening.

To Captain LIMPUS was left the task of testing in actual warfare the mobility of the mounted naval guns, and right well did they bear the test. Alone and unaided it is obvious that the artillery of the Army could never have accomplished what was done by means of the naval guns. The naval weapons were heavier but evidently were more mobile, in spite of their rough and ready mountings. With the aid of drag ropes, and there were sometimes over two hundred men on to one gun, the sailors seemed to have dragged their guns anywhere they selected, in spite of boulders and mimosa bushes, and other local articles cheering to the soul of the transport officer. One lesson from this is obvious, and that is that the British artillery would do well to have a waggou behind their guns containing a plentiful supply of good drag ropes, so that in tight places our infantry regiments might be requisitioned for hauling.

Here also it may be noticed from the unvarnished story told by Captain LIMPUS that in the first fight at Tugela, where Colonel LONG lost his guns, by that small disaster he saved an army from annihilation, for had the British army gone on straight into the trap prepared by the Boers nothing could have saved it from total destruction. The Boers after all were somewhat too previous in opening fire.

Captain LIMPUS is undoubtedly a most observant officer and seems to have thoroughly mastered the whole of the situation. To him and his men likewise the nation owes a large debt, and the success of the last effort of General BULLER was considerably due to the way in which the *Terribles* pounded the Boer trenches, so that their riflemen dared not show a head without a fair chance of losing it. The accuracy of the naval fire at long range suggests another important lesson from the campaign, namely, the use of the telescope. By the aid of their telescopic sights the sailors were enabled to fire not only with great accuracy but were able to prolong their fire until the British soldiers attacking were right up to within a short distance of the Boer trenches, and could take them with the bayonet. The telescopes of the Naval Brigade proved extremely useful; so much so that the Commander-in-Chief relied upon them for accurate observation, and it is pleasing to know that as a consequence General BULLER procured all the telescopes he possibly could.

There are other important lessons of a technical nature to be learned from the lecture, and we have no doubt the valuable experiences and work of both officers will be appreciated by those for whom they are intended. Neither officer indulged in any criticism of the campaign or of those facts which came within their experience. That has been left to the War Correspondent. The blunders of the Natal campaign were many and the Boers apparently relied rightly for success on some of our generals. The stubbornness of General BULLER was admirable—it carried him through. Certainly at times, in the Spionkop affair for instance, he experienced very hard luck. His latest success—

the out-flanking of Laings Nek and Majuba—is a tribute to his able generalship. On reading the details of the Natal campaign and the part played in it by Captain Scott, one regrets that the "handy man" was not even more in evidence, or that some of our leaders possessed the same amount of brains.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 11th inst. a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:

HIS EXCELLENCY The ACTING GOVERNOR, Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G.

The Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Acting Postmaster-General for 1899; report of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps; report of the Harbour Master for 1899; and a statement of water account for the year ended 31st December, 1899.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY brought up Financial Minutes Nos. 27, 28, and 29 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

AMENDING THE STANDING ORDERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move—That the Standing Rules and Orders of this Council made, in pursuance of Article XIX. of the Royal Instructions of the 19th day of January, 1888, and dated the 9th day of June, 1890, be amended as follows:—

(a.) That No. 34 of the said Rules and Orders be amended by striking out the words "by the consent of the President and a majority of the Members present," and by substituting, in lieu thereof, the words "if a motion to that effect is carried by a majority of votes; and on such motion the Governor, or the Member presiding, shall have an original vote in common with the other Members of the Council, as also a casting vote if the votes shall be equal."

(b.) That No. 41 of the said Rules and Orders be amended by striking out the words "at least," and substituting, in lieu thereof, the words "or; in the case of the Standing Law Committee, in the presence of at least four Members thereof."

(c.) That the words following be added to No. 48 of the said Rules and Orders, viz.:—"If any Member of either the Law Committee or the Public Works Committee shall die, or become incapable of acting, or be absent from the colony or resign by writing under his hand, or if from any cause his seat on either of such Committees become vacant, the President may, at any meeting of the Council, appoint another Member of Council, in his place, to be a Member of such Committee."

The three Standing Orders affected by this motion are Nos. 34, 41 and 48. As regard 34, it may be well to point out that the making of Standing Rules and Orders is provided for by No. XIX. of the Royal Instruction of 19 Jan., 1888, which says:—"The Legislative Council may from time to time make Standing Rules and Orders for the regulation of their own proceedings; provided such Rules and Orders be not repugnant to our Letters Patent or to any other Instructions from Us under Our Sign Manual and Signet." Now the previous clause, viz. XVIII. of the same Royal

Instructions, provides that "All questions proposed for debate in the Legislative Council shall be decided by the majority of votes, and the Governor or member presiding shall have an original vote in common with the other Members of the Council, as also a casting vote, if upon any question the votes shall be equal." Now Standing Order 34 says:—"The Standing Orders of the Council may be suspended by the consent of the President and a majority of the members present." To require the consent of the President is apparently not in accordance with clause XVIII. of the Royal Instructions, and the Secretary of State has pointed this out and suggested an amendment. I accordingly propose the amendment in the terms of the Resolution set forth in the printed notice. As regards No. 41 of the Standing Rules and Orders, it has been found by experience that in a place like Hongkong it is very likely one of the members may be absent at one or more meetings of the Standing Committee. It is undesirable that the fact that one member out of five is on some occasion unable to attend should paralyse the action of the remaining members. It is true that by No. 50 of the Standing Rules and Orders the Committee is competent to act if three at least of its members are present. But the absence of a single member prevents the Chairman from being able to give the certificate mentioned in No. 41 "that the Bill has been considered clause by clause in the presence of all the members of such Standing Committee at least." It is difficult to see the use of the words "at least," for it could not be considered by more than all the Standing Members. Accordingly I propose the Amendment specified in the printed notice of motion. I cannot see any evil likely to result from the amendment, for it will still be competent for any member to object to have the Bill so reported on treated as if reported on by a Committee of the whole Council, and if any single member raises that objection the Bill must be considered clause by clause by the whole Council in Committee. As to 48, this provides for the appointment of three standing Committees at the first meeting of the Council subsequent to 1st October in each year, but as it stands it makes no provision for filling vacancies occurring during the year. My proposed amendment remedies that defect, and in its wording I have followed as nearly as may be the verbiage of No. XIV. of the Royal Instructions dealing with Provisional appointments of members of Council.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills passed their first readings:—

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magistrates Ordinance 1890, (No. 10 of 1890).

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Piers Ordinance, 1899.

The Council adjourned until Monday week.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

After the Council meeting a meeting of the Finance Committee was held, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The following votes were agreed to:—

A sum of \$1,772.66 to cover the cost of printing the Draft Code of Civil Procedure for the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The consideration of the vote for \$2,300 in aid of the vote contribution towards Defence Works was postponed at the request of the unofficial members. A sum of \$16,528 to defray the cost of the purchase of arms and other stores for the Police.

This was all the business.

The Foochow Tea Season, says the *Daily Echo* of that port, is an earlier one than of late years. The larger arrivals of Congou, however, only go in part to confirm this (184,000 half-chests against 119,000 half-chests to the end of May last year), the real reason as regards a considerable portion of the excess being that there have not been the same heavy rains and floods which delayed transport of the tea from the interior last year. Judging from figures, buyers appear to be somewhat wary, the settlements to the end of May barely reaching half those made to the same date last year.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE OF TELEGRAMS.

SHANGHAI, 9th June, 11.25 a.m.

Paoting-fu is burning. The railway service to Peking has finally stopped. Matters are becoming increasingly serious. The English missionaries at Peking are in the British Legation. An Imperial Edict which was published on Wednesday has had the effect of encouraging the Boxers.

SHANGHAI, 9th June, 4.9 p.m.

Sir Claude Macdonald telegraphs to Consul-General Warren at Shanghai that the movement against the foreigners has been allowed to grow to such an extent that it has resulted in the burning of railway stations and the interruption of the railway service for five days. Two British missionaries and several foreigners have been murdered in a district near Peking. Throughout the country numbers of missionary converts have been murdered or pillaged and chapels destroyed, while in the capital British missionaries have been compelled to leave their houses and take refuge in the Legation, which is defended by 75 marines.

The Chinese Government, which is so deeply affected in the matter, sends high officials to parley with the Boxers, but shows no intention of summarily suppressing the rising. Probably it has the power, but the Throne is strongly influenced by sympathy with the movement. The spirit of the Imperial troops is doubtful. All is well at present at the British Legation.

[With reference to the above despatch from Sir Claude Macdonald, it may be noted that the *Peking and Tientsin Times* reports the departure from Tientsin on the 31st ult. of some 330 international troops for Peking. They got off by 4 o'clock, being loudly cheered by all present. The body comprised about 75 British, 75 Russians, 75 French, 52 Americans, 30 Italians, and 25 Japanese. The train reached Peking at 6.45, and all entered the City, with the exception of twenty British, who stayed with an officer at Machiapu for the night with the baggage.]

SHANGHAI, 9th June, 5.35 p.m.

It was expected at Tientsin yesterday that 5,000 Russian troops would land. Tungchow has been burnt. The missionaries are safe.

SHANGHAI, 10th June, 11.18 a.m.

Tientsin reported last night that affairs in the capital were very critical and that it was impossible to wire detailed news.

SHANGHAI, 10th June, 11.47 a.m.

Tientsin reports to-day that 800 troops, chiefly British, are forcing their way to Peking. The train has just left with machine guns mounted for use and sleepers to repair the line. Admiral Seymour and the American Commander are leading.

The Russian, Japanese, and French troops and more British are following by a second train. More troops are landing. Great satisfaction is felt at Tientsin. This clinches matters.

SHANGHAI, 12th June, 4.25 p.m.

The troops have reached Lofa, their progress having been delayed through the necessity of repairing the bridges. To this point supplies have been sent. 275 Russians and French left at noon yesterday to join the column.

Telegraphic communication with Peking ceased on Sunday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, since which there have been numberless unvouched rumours.

SHANGHAI, 14th June, 11.10 a.m.

Rioting has broken out at Yunnanfu. The China Inland Mission has been partly,

and the Bible Christians' and Roman Catholic missions utterly destroyed. All the missionaries are safe at the Yamen.

French troops are at Mengtze. It is alleged that opposition to the spread of French influence is the cause of the disturbance.

[The representatives of the China Inland Mission at the beginning of the year were:—Rev. O. and Mrs. Stevenson, Rev. A. H. Sanders, Rev. F. H. Rhodes, Misses Leffingwell, F. Campbell and M. E. Carsley, Rev. E. J. and Mrs. Piper, and Mrs. Thorne; those of the Bible Christian Mission were Rev. F. J. and Mrs. Dymond, Rev. E. J. and Mrs. Piper, Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Grist, and Mrs. Thorne, some therefore representing both Societies. A list of the Roman Catholic Mission is not to hand.]

THE BOXER RISING.

[FROM OUR TIENTSIN CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin 29th May.

THE CRISIS ARRIVES.

The Boxers have precipitated a crisis, and unless the Imperial Government instantly gives up its insane attempt to run with hare and hounds the issue will be most grave. Chiefly through the influence of Yü Hsien, the ex-Governor of Shangtung, whom the Germans got cashiered last year, the Peking officials have persuaded themselves that the *I Ho Tuan* was a society where strings might be pulled to Chinese advantage *vis-à-vis* foreigners. Consequently in all their proclamations, instructions to officials, &c., they have taken the line of flattery and non-denunciation: *qua* wrong-doers the Boxers are to be punished, but *qua* patriots and gymnasts who affect military drill they are to be left strictly alone. The result is, that they have now raised a ghost which, unless they are very prompt and decided, they will be unable to lay. The Ministers have been very well informed by direct communication from missionaries in the ill-affected districts how serious the situation is: they have been unceasing in urging on the Chinese the dangerous nature of the fire they were fostering in their anxiety to scorch the foreigner. Bishop Favier especially has kept M. Pichon *au courant* with all that has been going on below the surface. This experienced and cautious old resident last week did an unprecedented thing in closing his (Peking) Orphanage and Hospital by way of precaution. These are institutions which attract the notice of the mob in times of sedition and which give rise to appalling calumnies. It is to be noted that the Right Reverend Bishop has a constitutional tendency to restiveness in times of danger, but on the other hand a more wary or better informed observer of affairs is not to be found in China.

THE COURSE OF EVENTS.

Now for the facts. The Boxers from Southern Chihli have acquired quite a remarkable mobility: they have within the last week swarmed up into the neighbourhood of Pao-ting Fu. They have been threatening the native Christians and railway officials all round for a few days. The Provincial Authorities sent up Brigadier Yang with three hundred sabres against them to avenge the death of some eighty or ninety Christians who have been attacked and killed at Kao-Li. Yang, after consulting with the magistrate of Cho-chan, pushed on to deal with the Boxers summarily. With a small party of thirty men he came up with them on a hillside, near Lai-Shuai and, much against the advice of his followers, dismounted and allowed himself to be inveigled up the hill for a consultation. He was pulled into a donga, and instantly done to death: as many as seventy-two wounds were given him; a statement is now circulating in the form that he was cut into seventy-two separate pieces. The accounts as to his followers vary; some say they were all cut off, others that only two or three were killed. This attack on an Imperial officer was the first awakening given to the Palace folk in Peking. Instantly twelve camps (5,000) were ordered up from the military centres. This incident took place on the 23rd or 22nd instant, but the Boxers have been more prompt than their punishers. On Sunday they fired the railway stations at

Liu-lo-ho and Chang-shin-tien on the Lu Han line, now in charge of the Belgians and yesterday they moved in the Peking direction and fired the stations at Lu-ko-chiao (Polo's Bridge) and Feng-ta (8 miles from Peking).

FACTS AND RUMOURS.

Mr. Norregaard early yesterday sent an engine for fourteen or twenty miles in the Pao-tung direction to bring off the Belgian refugees: it whistled long and loud in the neighbourhood of their houses but got no tidings of the men. There is a ghastly report that nine of them in a group are on top of a hill with their wives fighting for their lives, but there is happily no evidence whatever of its truth. Panic is many-mouthed and lying-mouthed and though there is cause for anxiety we do not think the case is so bad as this. Mr. Norregaard on approaching Chang-Shiu-Tien saw flames at the station, and when the train pulled up, about a hundred men, brandishing swords, tried to outflank it, so he at once reversed and came back to Feng-tai, whence, with the others, he came down to Tientsin. The workshops and engine houses at the great junction (Feng-tai) were only set on fire in the afternoon after the foreigners had left. The noon train up to Peking only went as far as Yang-tsun (20 miles); at the suggestion of the traffic manager it came back, as he suspected danger from the fact that the corresponding down train had not even started. The result was that there has been no communication between Tientsin and Peking to-day. The Peking military commander sent out two battalions to take charge of the terminus at Ma-chia-bu (one mile from the South gate), and we know so far that nothing serious has transpired there.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE TROOPS.

Some rational doubt is felt as to the behaviour of the troops, but so far there is nothing to warrant the fear that they will join the Boxers; although Peking is thus cut off, there is no cause for panic. The Chinese know as well as anybody the consequences of any violation of the *sanctitas legatorum*. If they can control their soldiers all will be well, both as regards the *I Ho Tuan* and the city mob. Poor as their soldiers are they are easily capable of taking the rebels in hand with their hocus-pocus drill and their fancied invulnerability. There are no guards at the Legations at present, but late last night the Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Italy and Japan telegraphed via their Tientsin consuls for one hundred men each. The Americans are to land to-day from the *Newark* which is fortunately at Taku, and the Japanese have already sent up twenty-five men from their gun-boat. The Russians, Germans and British will be here in forty-eight hours. We also have twenty British marines in Tientsin. Tientsin feels no anxiety for itself. We have a male population of at least 300 adult foreigners; nearly 100 of these are volunteers.

Later.

TRAFFIC RESUMED.

Communication with Peking is restored. The 4 a.m. train crammed with soldiers got through to-day early, and ordinary traffic was resumed later in the day.

The Boxers have moved N. E. from Feng-tai.

The Russian Legation is sending down its ladies and children.

There is no word whatever of the Belgians on the Lu-Han line, either on this side of Pao-tung-fu or beyond it.

Both Chinese and foreign authorities are acting vigorously. The Boxers have impressed the native mind as nothing has done for thirty years. The belief in their immunity from death and wounds is universal, but the moment facts upset it there will be a violent reaction.

Tientsin, May 30th.

A relief party of fourteen volunteers, mostly French residents, has left to rescue the Belgians from Chang-shen-tien. No news whatever has come about these gentlemen. A native report says they are in a pagoda on a hill, and have shot several of their assailants.

One hundred and eight men landed from the U. S. *Newark* last night and came up to Tientsin by river at 11 p.m. They will here await the arrival of the other six guards, and go to Peking together. Transit difficulties are expected; the officials will probably refuse railway passengers.

Tientsin, 3rd June.

THE RETREAT FROM PAOTING-FU.

The story of the Belgian engineers' retreat from Pao-tung-fu is the most astounding incident of the momentous week. Leaving on Monday (May 28th) in a dozen boats the party of thirty had a military escort and the company of their Director Seng, and interpreter for two days during which they made 170 li. When their escort left them, the Boxers made their appearance, and, getting the boats stranded in a shallow creek, into which the fugitives believe they were enticed, opened fire. Among other weapons they had a wooden cannon. The refugees shot a few and brained one man climbing into the boats; then jumping into the water they by main force shoved the vessels across the creek, landed, and formed square (six women and one baby in the centre) and then began their eighty mile tramp to Tientsin. They had to go by the sun and stars, and simply kept due east, avoiding all villages and towns, and fighting the whole time. They were sniped by night, and latterly had to carry the women and one comrade who had got shot in the feet. They shot 2,000 cartridges and affirm they killed at least 100 men. When they first landed the interpreter was seen fanning himself and smoking: he is now in Tientsin under arrest, and says he had to quit for his own skin. As not one of them could speak a word of Chinese, they could not distinguish friend from foe, and doubtless suffered much accordingly. Many of their engagements were at close quarters and some of the wounds are sword cuts and spear thrusts.

THE MISSING AND THE WOUNDED.

Messrs. Ossent (their leader), his sister (Madame Astier) and Messrs. Pezzaro (Italian) and Cadeis (Turkish subject), elected not to come with the main body when they landed, and the Chinese have it that they have been murdered and mutilated. No hopes are now entertained of their safety, though expeditions have set out to determine one way or another. On Saturday morning, when thirty li out of Tientsin, five more men separated themselves—it is supposed they either wished to push on, or lost their mental balance from their sufferings. Friendly Chinese men sent in reports of their pitiable condition, and relief organizations, Volunteer and Cossack, went out. When the Chinese protested at the latter they were told that the time had now passed for such protests. One relief party met the fugitives just entering the city and found them in an unspeakable condition of misery, hunger, thirst and fever. They were quite unable to give any account of themselves, but have done so since. One of the ladies has a bullet in her neck, another was all but nude: a third is close to maternity. A day's rest and attention have however done wonders, and clear succinct accounts can be had. The men all behaved like heroes and gentlemen. Mr. Papasse (a Greek) and Albertazze (Italian) were found on the bund this morning at 1 a.m. almost unable to account for themselves, the former with a huge gash in his head. They are two out of the five who left the party on Saturday morning. It is feared the other three have perished, making seven in all.

This story points one great lesson that courage and keeping together can do wonders. It is a fine feat for sixteen men to have brought the women through under such adverse circumstances. The missing three are French, Messrs. Devenaux, Boillon and Dillon.

THE STATE OF PEKING.

Affairs in Peking are comparatively quiet, and anxiety has decreased since Jung Lu withdrew his so-called protectors of the peaceful. The foreign guards went on without opposition, though the orders to resist their entry were only withdrawn an hour or two before they arrived, after the Chinese were told that they were coming in any contingency. The Viceroy in Tientsin similarly only gave permission to entrain when told that they were going in any case and had their own drivers, &c., all ready: face was then saved by according permission for thirty—at which the officers smiled as they entrained their fifties and seventies.

It is universally believed that the reactionary members of the Government do not tell the Dowager all that is said and done at the Yamen, and that she does not know the actual state of affairs. If this be so, we shall soon see the Ministers demanding audience. Up to date the

safety of foreign life has been the supreme guiding principle of the Legations and they have followed identically the same policy, but there are new curious rumours floating round about the behaviour of one Power who has offered to police and defend Chihli by 30,000 men. As this power is not Russia it can only be Japan; and if there be anything in it, it shows a new deep and far-reaching policy, viz., Asia v. Europe.

There are now nineteen war vessels outside of Taku Bar. Admiral Seymour arrived in the *Centurion* on Saturday and came up to consult with Consul Charles yesterday.

THE PANIC AMONG THE NATIVES.

The native public mind is in a highly excited state; political agitators are showing considerable ingenuity in intensifying it; three night ago we had the curious device of dabbing the front door of whole streets of houses in the Native City with something resembling blood. Your readers may guess how this would appeal to the imaginative of a panic-stricken folk. The Boxer excitement has degenerated into fear and follies which are positively ridiculous, e.g. it is believed that the fire at the Chartered Bank last week was caused by an *I-Ho Tuan-tih* simply pointing his finger at the building.

The reaction will of course soon come. Meanwhile the ordinary villainy of the city is reaping an increased harvest, and venturing on bigger game requiring combination and courage, knowing that it will be debited to the Boxers. A cash shop adjoining the Concessions was raided two nights ago, and there is little doubt felt that deliberate arson is common. The fire at Ma-ka-li (the Chartered Bank) was the second attempt in ten days; happily the main building was practically uninjured.

4th June.

THE SPREAD OF THE AGITATION.

The Boxers are more ubiquitous than ever and are now spread over all the country between Tientsin and Peking. Last night they fired the station at Hung Tsun, 64 miles from Tientsin, and 16 from Peking, and further broke down a bridge, so that railway communication between the two cities is now severed.

Worse than that—the sedition which has been for six weeks brewing at Yung Chung near Lang Fang, the half-way station, broke out yesterday; and we are to-day notified that Rev. C. Robinson and five native converts have been murdered, while the Rev. H. V. Norman is a prisoner in the hands of a Boxer who has already suffered punishment and vowed vengeance. Mr. Robinson came to China only two years ago with the Rev. Sidney Brooks, who was so barbarously murdered in Shantung at the New Year. Both he and Mr. Norman knew the danger they were in, but refused to come away as they feared that would be the signal for the massacre of their people.

COSSACKS MEET WITH SOME BOXERS.

The Cossacks who went out on Saturday to seek for the seven missing Belgians were opposed at a village To Li some 20 miles distance from Tientsin by about one hundred men (mostly lads) armed with spears, &c. As the officers, Captain Nietz Volodoff and Lt. Blousky, had orders not to fire unless at last extremity, they marched close up to the men (30 feet). The Boxers then made their curious passes and gestures and came right on, whereupon the Russians rode them down. Lt. Blousky was wounded by a spear and fell, whereupon his men charged back again, and the melee became a question of revolver and spear and sword. Sixteen Boxers were left dead and many wounded; two of the Cossacks were badly cut, one losing nearly his entire nose. The boys fought with real courage and plainly showed their own conviction that they were invulnerable. It is to be hoped that this extraordinary idea—the one on which the extreme popularity of the Society chiefly depends, and which has universal credence—will soon be exploded; when it is, the reaction may be speedy.

General Nieh's troops from Lutai are all over the suburbs at important strategical positions, protecting both the Government property and the foreign settlement. We prefer to look after ourselves, and with 200 armed sailors and marines here, we have little fear of our ability to do so, as we have an adult male population of over 300.

THE DOWAGER AND HER ADVISERS.

A rumour to which I attach little importance is in circulation among the Chinese to-day that

the Dowager has fled Peking. Another and far more probable report is that she is in the seclusion of the Palace, knowing little or nothing of what has occurred all round her, as the Reactionaries do not communicate the despatches of the Tsungli Yamen. Every day but emphasizes the testimony that her Government neither fears the Boxers or is in collusion with them. Had Li Hung-chang been here, the sedition would never have been allowed to gather head; but every resolute official who dares commend strong measures has been snubbed.

Li's friends all maintain that he has been sent south because the Two Kwang are to be the centre of the coming storm.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE WHICH ENCOURAGED THE RIOTERS.

The following is the edict referred to in our telegram from Shanghai, published in Monday's issue, which was said to have encouraged the Boxers. For the translation we are indebted to the *N.-C. Daily News*, to whom it was communicated by telegraph. It is dated 6th June, and runs:—

The Western religion has existed and been disseminated throughout China for many years, while those who disseminated it have done nothing except to exhort people to do good. Moreover, converts to the religion have never, under the protection of religion, raised up disturbances: hence converts and the people at large have always remained at peace with one another, each going his own way without let or hindrance. Of late years, however, with the constant increase of Western churches throughout the country and the consequent overwhelming numbers of converts joining them, men of evil character have stealthily gained a footing into their ranks, making it difficult, under the circumstances, for missionaries to distinguish the good from the bad amongst the converts. Taking advantage of this, these evil characters have accordingly, under the guise of being Christians, harassed the common people and bullied the countryside; but we are of opinion however that, perhaps, such a condition of affairs cannot have been viewed with favour by the Missionaries themselves. As to the I Ho Chuan (Patriots and Champions of Peace) Society, this organisation was first prohibited during the reign of the Emperor Chia Ch'ing (1795/1820). Owing, however, to the fact that, of late, the members of this Society simply trained themselves for purposes of self-protection and to defend their homes and villages from attack, and moreover because they had abstained from creating trouble we [did not issue our ban of prohibition according to precedent but] merely sent repeated instructions to the local authorities concerned to keep a proper restraint on the movements of the Society. We pointed out to the said authorities that the present was not a question of whether these people were Society-men or not, but that the point was whether, being banded together, their object was to create trouble in the country or not. If, then, the Society-men should indeed rise up and break the peace it should be the duty of the authorities to make a strict search for the lawbreakers and punish them according to law. Whoever these parties may be, whether Christians or Society-men, the Throne makes no difference in its treatment of them, for they are all the subjects (children) of the Empire. Moreover, even in cases of litigation between Christians and the common people our instructions have ever been that the authorities settle them according to the rights of the matter, no favour being allowed to be shown to either party. It transpires, however, that our commands have of late years never been obeyed. The officials of the various prefectures, subprefectures, departments and districts have been proved to have neglected their duties; they have neither acted in friendly conjunction with the missionaries, sympathised with the people under them in their difficulties, nor settled litigation in the spirit of impartiality, and the consequence has been that those concerned began to hate one another, the enmity becoming deeper and deeper as occasions for ill-will multiplied. On account of this, therefore, we now find the members of the I Ho Chuan Society banding themselves together as village militia and declar-

ing war against the Christians. In the meantime, we find discontented spirits in conjunction with lawless ruffians joining in the movement for their own ends; riots are the order of the day; railways are destroyed and churches are burnt down. Now the railways were constructed by, and are the property of the Government, whilst churches were built by the missionaries and their converts for their own occupation. Do these Society-men and others then think that they will be allowed to destroy and burn at their own sweet will? In thus running riot these people are simply opposing themselves to the Government. This is really beyond reason. We, therefore, appointed Chao Shu-ch'iao, Grand Councillor and Governor Adjunct of Peking, to proceed yesterday as our Imperial Commissioner to restore peace and to call upon the people and Society-men to immediately disband and return each man to his own avocations and daily work. Should traitors and revolutionary Society-men try to stir up the people to raise up and pillage and destroy the countryside, we hereby call upon the I Ho Chuan people to hand over to the authorities the ringleaders for punishment according to the laws of the land. Should any be so misguided as to persist in disobeying these our commands they shall be treated as rebels, and we hereby warn them that when the Grand Army arrives, their fathers, mothers, wives and children will be separated from one another and scattered, their homes destroyed and they themselves slain. They will also bring upon themselves the stigma of disloyalty and of being false to their country, for it will then be too late to repent. Our heart is filled with pity when we think of the retribution that will then overwhelm our people. We, therefore, hereby declare that if after this warning, should there be still any who refuse to obey our commands, we will immediately order the Generalissimo, Jung Lu, to send Generals Tung Fu-hsiang (Kansu Corps), Sung Ch'ing and Ma Yü-k'un (Szechuan Corps), with their commands to punish these rebels and to disperse them. Finally, in sending troops out the primary purpose is to protect the law-abiding people; but we now hear that those sent out by the Chihli provincial authorities have not only failed in affording such protection and restraining evil characters but, on the contrary, have themselves been guilty of preying upon the countryside. We now hereby command Yü Lu, Viceroy of Chihli, to investigate this matter at once, and also to send trusty deputies to make secret investigations. If it be found that these military officials have indeed been guilty of encouraging their men to loot and pillage, such guilty officers are to be summarily executed. There must be no leniency or mercy shown to such. Let this our decree be copied out on yellow paper and posted throughout the country as a warning to people and that all may know our commands.

A HONGKONG CHINAMAN'S EXPERIENCE OF THE BOXERS.

In view of the attention directed towards the "Boxers" up north, it may interest our readers to know that men practising the same tricks as these people are going about the colony and are gathering to themselves quite a number of adherents. There is no reason to believe, however, that there is any conspiracy afoot, the object of the propagandists being, apparently, merely to make money. They rent rooms in different parts of the colony and give exhibitions calculated to make the ignorant believe that they are invulnerable, and as they declare that all who join them, paying \$10 as entrance fee, will be equally blessed, they are scooping in a fair sum of money every week.

This is not the first time the "Invulnerables" have appeared in Hongkong. They worked the place some years ago, and a Hongkong Chinaman the other day gave one of our representatives an account of a visit which he paid and some friends to one of their exhibitions given in a club in Hollywood Road. Said he:—

"When we reached the place the master Boxer and his followers were on their knees saying prayers, during which they threw charms in water which they drank. They declared that this made them invulnerable, and they then commenced their exhibition, beginning with swallowing knives and so on.

"Then a man came forward and asked one of my friends to give him some blows on his stomach. He gave him five blows, but they did not appear to hurt him at all. A brother of mine then asked to be allowed to try. The Boxer made no objection, whereupon my brother, who is a very muscular man, gave him two blows which nearly killed him; he could not stand a third blow. The next day he vomited blood. Then he had consumption and died shortly afterwards.

"Another man got a chopper and began striking his stomach with it. He however took care only to strike the soft part of his stomach, and he did himself no harm. It was just like striking an india-rubber ball.

"Then the man was foolish enough to ask someone to chop him on the arm, saying that it would do him no injury. He was chopped on the arm with the result that his arm was nearly cut in two.

"Besides this they allowed anyone to strike them with a bundle of iron bars. When struck with the bundle they cannot be hurt much, but one out of our party asked to be allowed to strike a Boxer with a single bar. He got permission and gave the Boxer a blow which almost disabled him.

"When these men go about giving exhibitions in the streets they have a lot of boys as accomplices. When they have got a crowd round them one of the Boxers will call out "get me a boy," and one of these boys will step out of the crowd. The Boxer will then profess to mesmerise him, and will order him to do all sorts of things which he has been previously trained to do.

"These men when worshipping hang up characters representing Confucianism, Buddhism, and Laoism, the tablets also containing signs representing seeing and hearing."

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS FROM HONGKONG.

The Indo-China Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Hinsang* cleared Hongkong for the north at 1 p.m. on the 15th inst. with 400 members of the Hongkong Regiment and Asiatic Artillery aboard, 200 of the Hongkong Regiment who were to have gone being left behind owing to want of accommodation. It has been arranged that 400 members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers shall follow in H.M.S. *Terrible* to-day or Sunday.

Major F. Morris, of the R.W.F., will be in command, with Major G. R. St. John, R.A., second in command.

Those departing were:—Major G. R. St. John, Commanding Officer, Hongkong-Singapore Battalion Royal Artillery; Captain E. G. Waymouth, Divisional Adjutant, R.A.; Captain Tulloch, Captain W. St. C. W. Bland, Lieutenant Lewis, Captain Duff, Lieutenant G. Badham Thornhill, R.A.; Captain E. L. Berger, Captain E. C. Rowcroft, Captain P. G. Anderson and Lieutenant E. C. L. Wallace, Hongkong Regiment; Captain H. V. Prynn, Royal Army Medical Corps; Lieutenant Leary, Army Ordnance Department; thirteen native officers; one warrant officer and close on 400 non-commissioned officers and men. Of these 200 men are from the Hongkong Regiment, the remainder being drawn from the Hongkong-Singapore Battalion of the Royal Artillery. The force is fully equipped for two months' campaigning and is supplied with 7-lb R.M.L. guns and the 2.5 mountain guns. Three hundred men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers are held in readiness to embark on H.M.S. *Terrible* to-morrow. The officers selected for service are—Major F. Morris, Captain J. H. Gwynne, Captain H. M. Richards, Lieutenant H. Rotherham, Lieutenant O. S. Flower (Acting Adjutant), Lieutenant F. J. Walwyn, and Lieutenant O. S. Owen, while Major Watson, R.A.M.C., will command the medical staff.

The trial trip came off on the 9th inst. in Manila Bay of a new river gunboat, the *Raleigh*, which has been built by Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves and Co., of Singapore, for the U.S. Government. The *Raleigh*, and her twin-sister the *Charleston*, draw about 18 inches with a full load, their tonnage is 800, and they are 100 ft. long and accommodate 120 men beside the crew. The armament has not yet been decided on. One of these boats will be employed on patrol duty on the Cagayan River.

THE BRIBERY ORDINANCE.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

The advisability of amending the Ordinance dealing with bribery, that is the Magistrates' Ordinance, in order that trumpery cases of bribery might be dealt with by the Magistrate summarily instead of their having to be sent for trial, has been recognised for some time, and at last action has been taken, a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890 (No. 10 of 1890) being read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday. The objects and reasons of the Bill are stated as follows:—

"There appears to be no valid reason why in cases of comparatively trifling offences committed within the Admiralty Jurisdiction, as for instance on board a British ship on the high seas, the offender should not be dealt with summarily by the Magistrate in the same way as if the offence had been committed after the ship had entered the harbour. There can be no doubt that the necessity, at present existing, of sending all such cases to the Sessions of the Supreme Court, either works great hardship on innocent witnesses who are bound over to appear, or causes a failure of justice by the refusal of persons to prosecute. Hongkong is a port frequented by vessels, many of which stay there but a short period before proceeding to other places, and it is often most inconvenient for witnesses to remain after the ship has left. Where the sentence of six months hard labour will adequately meet the case and the facts are clear and simple, there is no valid reason why the Magistrate should have to commit the accused for trial just because the offence happened outside the harbour.

"By section 80 of the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890, as amended by Ordinance 12 of 1895, the Magistrate cannot inflict imprisonment for more than six months. If, therefore, the gravity or difficulty of the case rendered committal for trial desirable, the Magistrate would commit just as he can now, even where the case is not excluded by the schedule from summary jurisdiction. (See the third clause of section 80 of the Magistrates Ordinance.)

"As regards cases of ignorant Chinese offering small bribes of a dollar or two to Sanitary Overseers, or Overseers in the Public Works Department, to induce them to refrain from performing their duties, the Magistrate could quite well deal with matters of this kind and dispose of them promptly and satisfactorily. During the last two sessions of the Supreme Court the time of the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Crown Solicitor and the jury, was occupied by no less than four such cases, the last being a charge of offering forty cents to an officer to release from custody an offender whom he was taking to the Police Station. As a matter of fact the Magistrate does, continually, deal with much more serious offences than the offering of petty bribes, and therefore he could quite properly be entrusted to dispose of matters of that kind. This Ordinance is intended to make the amendments in the schedule to Ordinance No. 10 of 1890, necessary to confer the requisite jurisdiction upon the Magistrate."

It has been remarked that the Legations at Peking will be hard put to it to accommodate their guards. Her Majesty's is by far the biggest, and two years ago it was a tight fit there when it had to make room for fifty, and yet on the 31st ult. alone 75 British marines started for Peking to protect the building.

The land revenue of Federated Malaya in 1899 was \$730,447, against \$636,927 in 1898. The increase in Perak was over \$39,000; in Selangor about \$18,250; and in Pahang \$20,438. The little States forming the Negri Sembilan increased their actual land revenue from \$103,368 to \$123,793, being an increase of \$20,425. Towards the actual increase, land revenue, exclusive of licenses, contributed \$19,651, while both land and mining rents show a substantial increase. Every land office in these States shows an increase, the most remarkable being that of Jelebu, which exceeded its former year's revenue by 87 per cent.; or, if the revenue from licenses be eliminated from the return of both years, the increase is 126 per cent.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

THE PROPOSED NEW HEADQUARTERS.

On the 14th inst. a meeting of the members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was held at Headquarters for the purpose of considering whether the proposed new Headquarters of the Corps shall be erected on the present Headquarters' site or on a site near the Golf Club Pavilion in the Happy Valley. There was a good attendance, and the chair was occupied by the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G. The large increase which has taken place in the Corps during the last 12 months has made it clear that more accommodation is absolutely necessary. The matter has been under consideration for some time. The practicability of enlarging the present premises has been discussed, but though the great convenience of the present site is admitted on all hands it was soon recognised that the area was by no means large enough to allow of any extensive buildings being erected thereon. Accordingly an alternative scheme—removing to Happy Valley—has been formulated and this was submitted to the meeting yesterday. This scheme—a scheme, by the way, much favoured by the Government—includes the erection of a drill shed, an institute, a gymnasium, etc. There is a difference of opinion even among the officers as to the wisdom of going to Happy Valley, but we venture to think that a little consideration will show that there is really no alternative but to do so, as the advantages would so greatly outweigh the disadvantages. At Happy Valley there would be ample room for the erection of suitable buildings, and there would also be plenty of space for out-door drill. Another point which should not be lost sight of is the fact that Happy Valley would be within easy reach of the new rifle range at Causeway Bay, which in itself would be a great convenience. In his speech yesterday Sir John emphasised the fact that what was wanted was the view of the non-commissioned officers and men on the matter, and he was careful to refrain from any endeavour to bias them one way or another, laying down the advantages and disadvantages advanced with regard to both schemes with strict impartiality. He, however, advanced a strong point in favour of the Happy Valley scheme when he impressed upon his hearers the fact that they must not merely look at the present but must provide for the future. The population of the colony is bound to increase, and with the increase in the population it is only to be expected that the numbers of the Corps will be increased. The matter was well discussed, various opinions being expressed. It was announced that within the next week papers will be sent round to the members of the Corps inviting them to fill in their views and forward them to Headquarters.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Report of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1899-1900 has been published. We make the following extracts:—

The total strength of the Corps is now 311 of all ranks as against 181 of all ranks (in 1898-1899).

The Staff, Field Battery, "A" "B" and "C" Machine Gun Companies, "D" Infantry Company, "E" Engineer Company, and the Band, now number 8, 93, 146, 31, 20, and 13 respectively, as compared with Establishments of 7, 110, 123, 57, 30 and 24, respectively.

The new Regulations for the Corps make provision for a Staff, a Field Battery, three Machine Gun Companies, an Engineer Company, and a Band. Each of the new Units, as sanctioned, has been raised.

The six obsolete 7-pounder R.M.L. guns of 200 lbs. have been exchanged for six 2.5 R.M.I. guns, pending the acquisition of breech-loading guns of the newest pattern, suitable for use in the colony. It is earnestly hoped that this vital question of re-armament will soon be dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Six 0.45 in. Maxim guns have been sent to England for conversion to guns of .303 in. calibre, and the remaining six 0.45 in. Maxim guns will be sent home for conversion immediately on return of the first mentioned six.

The Martini-Henry Carbines in the possession of the Corps have been replaced by 233 .303

in. Martini-Enfield Artillery carbines, Mark 11.83 Magazine Lee-Enfield Rifles, Mark 1, have been received for the use of the Infantry and Engineer Companies. Three hundred and sixteen sword bayonets, pattern '88, have been received to replace the old sword bayonets, of the 150 old Martini-Henry Carbines and sword bayonets 100 sets were given to the Hongkong Police and 50 have been kept by the Corps for drill purposes.

The discipline of the Corps has been exceedingly good throughout the season.

Under the head of Drills the figures are as follows:—

	F.B. "A"	M.G. Co.	"B"	"C"	"D" Inftry. Co.
Have become efficient with more than 30 drills	75	38	38	37	18
Have become efficient with less than 30 drills	16	6	...	2	6
Are non-efficient	10	20	2	3	7
Total	101	64	40	42	31

	"E" Eng. Co.	BAND.
Have become efficient with more than 20 drills	14	12
Have become efficient with less than 30 drills	2	1
Are non-efficient	4	1
Total	20	13

The want of a Rifle Range for the Corps has been very severely felt during the past season, with the result that virtually no "Regulation Course" with the new arms has been obtained. The extreme urgency of the matter has been fully recognised by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding. Plans have been prepared and a site selected, and it is greatly to be hoped that the necessary funds will be voted to allow of the work being put in hand without delay. When the range for the Corps is completed, it is hoped that the annual course as laid down in the Home Volunteer Regulations, 1899, will be completed by the whole Corps.

In conclusion, it will be seen from this report that the progress of the Corps during the past season has been exceptionally good. This progress has been brought about by the patriotic spirit and the self-denying efforts of the young men of the colony, including both those who were already members of the Corps, and also those who joined it during the past season; by the exertions of Officers whose services I have already mentioned; and by the generous recognition and help afforded by the Government and the Legislature. I trust that similar conditions of progress will not be wanting in the future.

THE SUICIDE BY AN AMERICAN.

ENQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on the 9th inst. Mr. Gompertz held an enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Arthur W. Upton, an American, who was found shot dead in Chamberlain Road on the 14th May.

Major Whitty, R.A.M.C., said that on the 14th of May he went up to the Peak by the 1.30 p.m. tram. In going along Chamberlain Road in a chair he saw the deceased lying on the roadway. He found that he was dead, and he went back and reported the matter to the Sikh policeman on duty outside the Tram Station. He did not make any examination of the body except to feel the pulse and see that the man was dead. He had never seen the deceased before. When he returned with the Sikh policeman they found the revolver produced lying underneath the man's right thigh. There was a wound on the right forehead.

Dr. Thomson, who examined the body on the 15th May, said he found a gunshot wound on the right side of the head. The ball had passed right through the head—through the upper part of the brain.

Mr. Haynes, manager of the Hongkong Hotel, said that on the 15th May he attended at the Mortuary to identify the body of the deceased. He identified it as that of Arthur William Upton, who had been staying at the Hotel since the 6th May. He should say the man was about 38. The man registered as "A. W. Upton, Manila." The letter produced was found in his room on the 15th May together with the deceased's hotel bill, which had been presented the day but one before. On the envelope containing the letter were written in lead pencil, "Please forward." The letter simply said:—"My Dear Lydia, Good Bye. As Ever, Arthur." While in the hotel

the deceased was very steady and quiet. He did not seem to have any friends in Hongkong. There was nothing of any value found among the deceased's effects in this room.

The hotel boy who attended to the deceased said the deceased went out of the hotel at about seven o'clock on the morning of the 14th May. He returned about nine o'clock and went out again. He did not come back. The next day he saw the dead body of the deceased at the Mortuary. The deceased was very quiet when in the Hotel. There was nothing unusual in his habits. He used to have drinks in his room, and had seen him the worse for liquor. He was sober when he went out on the morning of the 14th May. He had seen him the worse for liquor three or four days before.

Inspector Macnab gave evidence as to the removal and search of the body of the deceased. The revolver which was found near the deceased was loaded in five chambers and one chamber had been recently fired. The pocket book produced was found in the man's inside breast pocket. It contained a large number of papers—receipt, passports, and a pawn-ticket relating to a gold watch and chain. No coin of any description was found upon the deceased. The empty revolver case was found attached to the band of the deceased's trousers. He searched the deceased's room at the hotel the next day and found the letter produced. He also found in a box a belt containing cartridges, corresponding with the bullets in the revolver.

A verdict to the effect that the deceased committed suicide by shooting himself was returned.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of the Acting Postmaster General for 1899 has been published. We make the following extracts:—

Approximate statistics of International and Local Correspondence received and despatched during the year, which is based on the statistics taken in October, give the following results:—

INTERNATIONAL.				
	Received.		Despatched.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Ordinary letters	1,456,930	1,646,200	1,224,070	1,444,660
Post cards	44,670	65,020	44,950	89,510
Newspapers and other articles	1,207,000	1,609,570	472,160	781,090
Registered articles	228,720	209,450	113,570	166,160
LOCAL.				
	Received.		Despatched.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Ordinary letters	189,620	253,620	81,130	103,550
Post cards	1,010	1,150	2,470	1,750
Newspapers and other articles	10,260	13,030	43,590	74,650
Registered articles	9,750	5,690	19,690	8,100

Compared with the previous year it will be seen that there was an increase under each head in both International and Local Correspondence. I may mention that included in the total under the head Local—Received—there were 199,520 letters, etc., posted and delivered in Hongkong, as against 140,690 in 1898.

A Statement of the number of Bags, Packets, Parcel Boxes and Loose Letter Boxes received and despatched shows the respectable total of 64,496 Bags; 3,633 Packets, 3,066 Parcel Boxes, and 2,290 Loose Letter Boxes, handled at this office.

By direction of the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom, special statistics were taken of the weight of mails despatched by British Contract Packets from London and Hongkong during the first 28 days of May; the result is appended (Table C). The total weight being—London—Letters 725 lbs. 14 ozs., Post Cards 1 lb. 10 ozs., Other Articles 10,086 lbs. and Hongkong—Letters 576 lbs. 6 ozs., Post Cards 1 lb. 7 ozs., Other Articles 1,015 lbs. 11 ozs.

Sale of Stamps.—The total amount received was \$216,721.45, which was \$16,404.32 less than the previous year. This falling off was due, not to any decrease in the volume of correspondence, for there was a large increase, but undoubtedly, and as was anticipated, to the adoption of the 1d. Postage rate on letters to the United Kingdom and the majority of the British Colonies. I have every reason to believe, however, that in the near future the still further increased correspondence will considerably reduce this loss if it does not entirely remove it.

Parcel Post transactions included in the total 26,866 Parcels received there were 2,215 Parcels insured, and in the total 22,488 Parcels despatched, 4,002 Parcels insured.

Revenue and Expenditure.—There was a slight increase under certain heads of revenue, but owing to the large decreases under that of Postage Stamps and Profit on Exchange, the total revenue received was less by \$19,270.63. I am glad, however, to point out that on the Expenditure side there was a decrease of \$3,658.76. The net balance to credit of the Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to \$80,006.60.

Money Order Business.—The total amount of orders issued and paid in Hongkong and Shanghai was \$633,397.72 while in 1898 it amounted to \$527,413.00. The sale of Imperial and Local Postal Orders exceeded that of 1898—the former by \$1,000 and the latter by \$300.

During the year another attempt was made to carry out the results of the Conference held at this office in 1897, on the subject of partial postal union of China with Hongkong. After much correspondence between the Postmaster General and the Postal Authorities at Peking, and it had been submitted to London with a view to the preparation of the necessary Conventions, I regret to say that owing to this Administration having been unable to accede to certain concessions subsequently proposed, this matter fell through.

The usual number of complaints regarding the alleged loss, delay or missending of unregistered letters were frequently made, but in many cases the Office was without blame, and looking to the circumstances surrounding the Hongkong Post Office, I do not think they were exceptional. On the other hand, I regret to have to refer to the complaints regarding the loss of Registered Letters and Insured Parcels, and which, unfortunately, was in many cases only too well proved. After a very searching examination of all the books kept in the Registration Department, it was discovered that no less than 83 Registered Letters and Parcels could not be traced. In many of these cases, however, no complaints had or have been made, and in some instances it was found that letters had been twice given receipts for or that, owing to some error subsequently discovered, the letter had been returned to the senders but the receipt never cancelled. In one instance the guilt in connection with an Insured Parcel for India was brought home to a clerk who had joined the Registration Branch on the 2nd May and resigned on the 3rd June on the ground of the insufficiency of the salary. He, on conviction, was sentenced to six months' hard labour, and had he not died before the expiration of his sentence, there were one or two other cases that he would have been charged with. The daily check since introduced will avoid any similar occurrence in the future.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 7th June.

THE SQUEEZE SYSTEM RECEIVES A BLOW.

In the official *yamen* it has been the invariable practice from time immemorial to sell the posts of secretaries, writers, ushers, and runners, to the highest offer, and the money so realised has gone into the pocket of the mandarins. The person who has bought any of these posts is expected to make money ten times as much during the year as what he has paid. So no doubt it is a very lucrative employment. To give himself a larger scope, a runner, for instance, will put a substitute in the office to work for him, and the substitute, paying also for the acting appointment, will squeeze those who have anything to do with the *yamen*, while he himself will go about to levy blackmail on gambling establishments, houses of ill-fame, and boats, &c. Against those refusing to pay this he would trump up a case and have them arrested, put in prison, and tortured until the money is paid. As an instance of this the following case may be quoted. "Chan Lee Chai" is a well known druggist shop in Canton. The proprietor thereof had made millions of dollars by the sale of pills, which were said to be very good and efficacious for debility and other diseases. As he was getting old, and having made money enough, he wanted to retire, and trans-

ferred his business to a man Pun Yü-shiu, reserving some interest in it for the maintenance of his poor relatives. Pun is of a respectable family, possessing an honorary title of mandarin by purchase, and is also doing very well. It so happened that one of the relatives of the late Chan Lee Chai had trouble with Pun on account of some money matter, and at the instigation of the *yamen* runners summoned him before the Pun Yü Magistrate. Then the *yamen* runners, Tam Kwan, Totai, and Chan Ching, took with them 30 or more men of the same character as themselves, went into Pun's house, brought him into the Police office of the *yamen*, and tried to exact blackmail from him. Pun, refusing to pay the runners, who insulted him, tore off his long coat, and otherwise ill-treated him. They did their best to place every obstacle in his way, so that he could not make known his case to the magistrate. As Pun is a man of influence and of some means he managed to appeal to the Higher Court of the prefect She Tai Chuan, who had the runners brought up and tried, and in passing sentence the prefect censured them severely, and stigmatized them as the worst class of men that prey upon the vitals of their fellow beings. Order have been sent to all the officials and gentry of the districts under his jurisdiction to take note and be informed that if any such case ever comes to their cognizance they are not to hesitate to report it to him.

CONCERNING DRAGON BOATS.

There are two kinds of Dragon Boats. That with a figurehead of dragon at the bow is called a male dragon, and that with a moon carved at its bow is a female dragon: male joss riding on male dragon, and female joss on female dragon. The boat is built of hard wood, costing from three to four hundred dollars each. In every village there is a dragon boat society belonging to a particular joss-house. Immediately after the festival the dragon boat is interred in the mud, and is termed the sleeping dragon till next year, when it will be dug up again for the races; it is then called a swimming dragon. Besides these there are many different names for dragons, such as gold dragon, silver dragon, yellow dragon, green dragon, black dragon, flying dragon, hidden dragon, fiery dragon, water dragon, and short-tailed dragon, &c. The Emperor of China is denominated dragon, his face is the dragon-countenance, his head the dragon-head, his robe the dragon-robe, and his throne the dragon-seat. On the 3rd or 4th day of the feast most of the dragon boats repaired to Wong Chuk-kee, their rendezvous somewhere at the southern part of Canton, where there is a joss-house, to worship the mother-dragon; while contesting in their races for prizes or for fame they quarrelled and fought a pitched battle with stones, mud, and revolvers, many of the dragon-boatmen returning with broken heads and wounded limbs. On the 30th ult. the dragon-boat of the Pankew village came into collision with that of the Lip Tak village, which brought on a fight amongst the men, two being drowned and several wounded. Every year the Chinese authorities have issued notifications prohibiting the dragon-boat races, but this is merely a dead letter to which no attention is paid.

ARREST OF LAO HOK-SHUN'S ASSAILANT.

The intended assassin of Lao Hok-shun, one of the directors of the Commercial Bureau, has been arrested by the Inspector of Police of the Sai Kwan district at the Kiang Tung steamer wharf on the day of the dragon-boats' festival. He is quite a young man of about 20, and is no doubt a hired assassin; so at the trial severe torture will be used to extort confession as to who else is concerned in the attempt. Lao Hok-shun has completely recovered under the treatment of a foreign doctor, but is advised not to go out. Probably he will leave Canton for Shanghai again.

LIGHTNING FATALITIES AT CANTON.

During the last fortnight Canton has been visited by thunder storms and rains almost every day. On the 22nd May at noon a boat-woman at Fatshan was killed by lightning; on the 24th a farmer's wife, while working at the Shin Hing with a child in her arms, was struck dead, the child being unhurt; on the 29th again three men in a milk shop, Tai Cheon at Fatshan, were struck, two being killed and one saved by a cotton quilt being over him; also on

the same day an old man in his house at the east gate of Shew Hing was killed. The Chinese proverb, says:—"The thunder will strike till the third generation of those who have done wrong."

TWO EXECUTIONS BY "LINGTSE."

A man of the age of 20, named Hui Po-ün, who had murdered his father with a chopper, was tried and sentenced by the provincial judge to be executed by *lingtse* (i.e. cutting to pieces). He was a native of Heungshan, and was known to be *non compos mentis*. The sentence was confirmed by the Viceroy and carried out on the execution ground on the 6th inst., a few foreigners from Shameen being present to witness the scene. The day previous another culprit, by name Tai, was also executed by *lingtse* for kidnapping and selling his mother to a house of ill-fame.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A NEW TAX.

The question of imposing a shop-tax as a substitute for all the *lekin* taxes, recommended by Kang-yi, when he was appointed high Commissioner and sent to Kwangtung to look into the revenues of the province by the Empress Dowager, has been completely settled. The leading merchants, Sam-king-yu and others, who have promised to pay to the Government annually 4,000,000 taels as shop-tax, have paid advance to the Government 1,000,000 taels collected from the different shops. The 14th June was appointed by the Viceroy and the Governor to open the shop-tax office and the provincial treasurer has been appointed to frame the regulations for collecting the tax with the leading merchants. It is reported that only one half of the shops are willing to pay the tax. Each shop is required to pay from one hundred to three hundred taels in advance, and the tax is to be collected according to the business of each shop, large or small. It is said that the *lekin* offices and stations are not to be abolished at present, for they are still used to collect *lekin* taxes from the shops failing to pay the tax.

A SUPPOSED ASSASSIN.

A young man about twenty-five years of age was arrested the other day by the soldiers in Canton, being alleged to be the man who who attacked Lau Hok-san. He will be brought before the Provincial Judge for trial. There is as yet no evidence to show that the lad is the real offender.

A SWINDLER'S TRICK.

Sometime ago a great swindler went to a goldsmith's shop in Siu-Sz street, Canton, and asked for one hundred taels of gold, saying that he belonged to the Imperial Bank of China. The shop at once sent a *foki* to go to the bank with him. When they arrived at the bank, the swindler asked the *foki* for the gold and told him to wait in the front part of the bank, where there was no one else present. The *foki*, having waited for some time, made enquiries and found that he had been cheated. A heavy reward was offered for the capture of the offender. It is said that he had been arrested the other day with all the gold in his possession.

THE PRICE OF FIREWOOD.

Firewood is exceedingly dear in Canton and in the surrounding districts, for the junks carrying firewood from the West and East rivers have to pay heavy blackmail to the pirates to escape being plundered. A dollar at present can buy only about one hundred and thirty catties against two hundred or more catties in former years. H.E. Li Hung-chang knowing this has sent a *weiyuen* with fifty thousand taels to buy firewood from the districts where it is produced in great abundance, to be sold in Canton at a low price to the poor.

A Chinaman was sentenced to six months hard labour at the Magistracy yesterday for attempting to break into a shop in Queen's Road. He had climbed on to the verandah when he missed his footing and fell and was captured by a Chinese constable.

For the vacant seat in the Legislative Council created by Mr. Herbert Smith's departure from the colony, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., proposes to offer himself as nominee of the Chamber of Commerce. We understand that Mr. J. Thurburn, Manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, is also a candidate.

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

The U.S. Philippine Commission arrived in Manila Bay on Sunday, the 3rd inst. Judge Taft gave a statement, of which the following is the most important part, to the representatives of the Press.

"We have full instructions, and extensive powers are given us. We shall not fully exercise these powers until we shall have had ample time to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the situation to proceed to enact legislative changes and reforms preliminary to the establishment of a stable civil government. The Military Governor, General MacArthur, until we assume our full authority, will continue to perform the duties and exercise the general powers heretofore discharged and wielded by General Otis; and even after we take full active part in the government he will continue to be its executive head until, on our recommendation, it shall seem to the President that the time has arrived for the appointment to a civil executive, and the making of the military forces of the United States merely auxiliary to the carrying on of the civil Government, and available only in cases of emergency for the suppression of lawless violence too formidable to be overcome by the regularly organized local police.

"We are aware that here are several issues of deep interest to the people of these islands upon which it will probably be our duty to take some action. Part of these will involve merely judicial investigation and decision of purely legal rights, while the remainder will require the careful exercise of political power to reach a just and equitable result. Upon these issues we cannot be expected at this time to say anything in advance of our final and deliberate conclusions.

"Representing the sovereignty of the United States in these islands which it is the purpose of our government to maintain, we are here to do justice to the Philippine people, and to secure to them the best government in our power, and such a measure of popular control as will be consistent with stability and the security, of law, order and property.

"We are civil agents. We are men of peace. The field of our work must of course be confined to regions in which the armed enemy has ceased operations. We cannot deal with men in arms. They are to be dealt with by the United States Army and the General Commanding. When those now in arms shall have laid them down, relying, as they certainly may, on the justice, generosity and clemency of the United States, we shall give them as full a hearing upon the policy to be pursued and the reforms to be begun, as to anyone having an interest in the matter.

"This is not a manifesto or proclamation; but anticipating that we might be called upon at various times by the Press and others entitled to know, we have deemed it best to say this much. I may add that we mean to inaugurate as comprehensive a school system throughout the Islands as circumstances will permit, and we have already invited Mr. Fred T. Atkinson, of Springfield, Mass., a gentleman of high professional standing as an educator, to come to the islands to become the General Superintendent of Education in the Philippines. We hope that he will reach here by the first of August. He is highly recommended to us by leading educators of the country."

Despatches received from Tientsin, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, state that Brigadier-General Yang, who was ambushed and murdered by Boxers at Laishui near Paotingfu recently, while en route to investigate a case of reported murder of Christians at Kaoli, is to be "cashiered for disobedience of orders, in that he had been ordered 'to investigate' and not to come to blows with the mob." This was the same officer whom the *Daily News* correspondent at Tientsin eulogised as a "fine old soldier." By rights Brigadier-General Yang's family should have been compensated by a grant of money and posthumous honours for him for having died doing his duty, but for the fact that he had "disobeyed orders." That the Boxers are secretly favoured by the powers that be in Peking has been again and again insisted upon, and what clearer proof can there be of this than this censure of Brigadier Yang?

THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The *North China Daily News* gives the text of the following despatch from Viceroy Liu of the Liangkang Provinces to Governor Lu of Kiangsu:—

I beg to inform your Excellency of the receipt by me on the 2nd of May of an urgent despatch by courier from the Board of War enclosing copy of an Imperial Decree, dated the 25th of April, handed to the Grand Council for the information and instruction of the following high provincial officials, viz. the Superintendents of Trade of the Northern and Southern ports (the Viceroys of Chihli and of the Liangkang provinces), the Viceroys of the Two Kuang, Hukuang, Szechuan, and Min-Ché provinces; the Governors of Kiangsu, Anhui, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Shantung, Hupeh, Hunan, Kuangtung and Kuang provinces, Shêng, President of the Grand Court of Revision, and Nieh, Provincial Treasurer of Kiangsu, the contents of said Decree being as follows:—

"We have received a joint report from the Board of Revenue and the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamén in response to our commands concerning the memorials of Shêng Hsuan-huai and others recommending the increase of the Tariff. Now a large proportion of the annual income of the Government is derived from the duties collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs from foreign goods, etc., and because the country has not sufficient funds to pay for the maintenance of its armies we specially appointed Shêng Hsuan-huai and Nieh, Chih-kuei (Provincial Treasurer of Kiangsu) to consult with (Sir Robert) Hart concerning the question of increasing the Tariff with due regard to the existing Treaties. The said Shêng and his colleagues recommend that the duties on imports and exports be increased by making a readjustment of the market values of said goods and that imported wines, spirits, cigars, tobacco, etc., be also duly taxed. These suggestions appear to be beneficial and harmless. As the time has arrived for the reconsideration of the Treaties, we hereby command Shêng Hsuan-huai, Nieh Chih-kuei, in conjunction with (Sir Robert) Hart, to communicate with the Ministers of the various countries, giving the reasons which have actuated the Imperial Government for formulating the proposed revision of the Tariff, and to begin at once on the discussion of the two points mentioned in the above-named recommendations in order that there may be no time lost. Furthermore with regard to the suggested increase of the Tariff, combining therewith the *likin* tax, it should be explained that this has reference solely to foreign goods and has no connection with the *likin* on native produce. As a matter of fact, the present question is one of grave responsibility and if made practicable will bring an increase of several millions of taels to the annual revenue and be of considerable benefit to the country at large. It is important that there be no shirking of responsibilities or delay in this matter whereby there will be danger of losing a grand opportunity, and we hereby command the Superintendents of the Northern and Southern ports; the Viceroys of the Two Kuang, Hukuang, Szechuan, and Min-Ché; and the Governors of Kiangsu, Anhui, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Shantung, Hupeh, Hunan, Kuangtung, and Kuangsi, to consider well the memorials of Shêng Hsuan-huai and his colleagues and those of the Board of Revenue and the Tsungli Yamén in regard to the above, using them as a basis in connection with the conditions and capabilities of the province or provinces under the jurisdiction of each. They should consider the question from all points of view, comparing the conditions of their country with the foreign influences at work, and find out (from their own points of view) how the question should be conducted by which the country may be benefitted and freed from harm, or how a result may be attained in which the advantages may be great, while the harm is reduced to a minimum. They (the said provincial high authorities) are commanded to be decided in their judgment and beware of hesitancy, while they should be liberal in treating the question and refrain from conservatism. Above all they must be prompt in arriving at a result. We,

therefore, grant the said high provincial authorities one month to consider the matter, within which time each and all of them are commanded to report to us their views, based on the conditions and interests of their several provinces and await our commands thereon. Finally, we command (the Grand Council) that copies of the memorials and documents of the said Sheng Hsuan-huai and his colleagues, as well as the memorials of the Board of Revenue and the Taungli Yamén, be hereby made out and despatched to each of the high officials herein named by courier, travelling at the rate of 400 li a day, and that this Decree be also notified at the same time to the said Sheng Hsuan-huai and the said Nieh Chih-kuei. Respect this!"

In obedience to the Imperial commands I, therefore, hereby make a copy of the above Decree which I herein send to your Excellency. Now I find that, of late, the financial condition of China is daily growing worse while the amounts we have to pay annually to our foreign creditors grow heavier and heavier, insomuch that in a few years' time we shall actually be in the position of being almost unable to liquidate any of them. Now if we can indeed devise a method of revising the tariff and bring in an increased revenue of several millions of taels annually, the country at large will, of course, be greatly benefitted thereby. It would, however, be well to remember also that the matter in question, namely, the combination of customs and likin duties, is solely confined to the duties on foreign goods and has nothing whatever to do with the likin on native produce. Again, of late years I find that the number of those trading under foreign flags has increased while, at the same time, Chinese trading under the names of foreign hongts are also numerous. It would therefore seem necessary for us to guard against attempts after the Treaty Revision has been settled, of people trying to defraud the revenues by passing native produce for foreign goods. Foreigners will also be used to protect these people, thereby rendering it extremely difficult for the Customs people to do their duty in examining goods. Indeed, the interior administrations become unable to collect likin, the country at large will naturally suffer a great deal. In a word, we shall find that before the country will begin to reap any benefit from the new tariff, frauds will already have been widespread. We must, therefore, be extremely careful and on our guard from the beginning.

As the matter under discussion is of paramount importance I have decided to instruct the Provincial Treasurers of Kiangning (Nanking) and Soochow; the Taotais of Shanghai, Chinkiang, Kiangning and Soochow; and the Chief of the three Likin Bureaus of Kiangning, Soochow and Shanghai, to report the result truthfully to me, after careful consideration. They are warned not to be indifferent or conservative in their views and must always keep in view the importance of arriving at a *modus operandi* by which the interests of likin on native produce may be protected. This indeed must be a *sine qua non*. I give them half a month to investigate, within which time they are required to report to me their views and suggestions. Upon these reports I shall base my memorial to the Throne. Your Excellency is requested to give your careful attention to the subject, in obedience to the Imperial commands.

Mr. Gilbert B. Whyte has been appointed General Manager of the Raub Mine, in succession to the late Mr. Wm. Bibby.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary* published on the 12th inst. contained a letter from Acting Commissioner of Customs E. V. Brennan, announcing the receipt from Shanghai of the following telegram "Amoy and Swatow declared infected; inform shipping. Aglen."

The Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies informed us on the 13th inst. that they had received the following, from the International Telegraph Office at Berne:—"On account of the interruption of the Chinese lines between Tientsin and Peking, telegrams for the latter place by either of the Joint Companies' cables can only be accepted at senders' risk. During the present crisis the Shanghai, Nagasaki and Vladivostok offices will remain open all night for the transmission of telegrams on Government service."

JAPAN AND COREA.

The Korean correspondent of the *Nagasaki Press*, writing on the 29th ult. of the recent judicial murder in Seoul, concludes with the following remarks:—

What will the Japanese Government do? That is one of the political consequences which no one can foretell. Minister Hayashi, one of the brightest men Japan has had here, on hearing the news immediately demanded an audience with the Emperor. This was refused him. He then sent a vigorous letter of protest to the Foreign Minister and there is no doubt that the wires between Seoul and Tokyo have been kept busily at work since yesterday.

It is notorious that Korea inaugurated the war between Japan and China, and the first ostensible act of that great tragedy was the assassination by a minion of the Korean Emperor of Kim Ok-Kyun in Shanghai. It is possible that again this fatal nation is about to deluge the Far East in blood? It is notorious that the relations between Japan and a certain Power are strained to breaking point. It is also notorious that the faction in Korea which has done An and Kwong to death is in favour of that certain Power.

Just at this time also a company of Japanese infantry have arrived to relieve part of the troops in the Japanese garrison in Seoul. The relieving purpose has been given up, so that so far they really constitute a reinforcement to the Seoul garrison. Japan knows just what step to take in this emergency and is prepared to take it.

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 11th inst. at noon an extraordinary general meeting in connection with the above company was held at the company's offices, No. 2, Connaught Road, for the purpose of submitting as a special resolution the resolution passed at the meeting held on the 23rd May. The Hon C. P. Chater, C.M.G., presided, and there were also present Messrs. P. Sachse, J. A. Mackay (Directors), Edward Osborne (Secretary), (Capt.) Brown, N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, R. C. Wilcox, Wong Kamfuk, L. L. Lopes, J. Hooper, E. Roberts, J. J. Monteno, G. M. Bain, A. V. Apar, Tsan Fu Cheung, and P. Jordan.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. WILCOX, the following resolution was confirmed:—"That the Regulations contained in Table A in so far as they apply to this Company be altered as follows:—That the following clause be substituted for Clause 37 of Table A:—"The quorum for all the purposes of a General Meeting shall be not less than five members present in person or by proxy. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless the quorum requisite be present at the commencement of the business."

This was all the business.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The third shoot of present series took place on the 10th inst., resulting in a win for Gunner H. S. Holmes of the No. 1 Cup and for Corporal Nicholson of the No. 2 Cup. There are sixteen competitors.

The following are the six best scores:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	H'cap.	Totals
Gunner H. S. Holmes	28	31	32	4	95
Sergeant Lammert	30	31	26	scratch	87
Corporal Nicholson	20	22	21	18	81
Gunner Wodehouse	24	31	14	10	79
Corporal Head	21	20	15	20	76
Captain Sanders	27	13	21	14	75

The police have arrested an Eurasian boy, aged 15, who gives the name of John Whiley, on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences. It seems the youth has been in the habit of going about representing himself as an official of the Water Department. He has made it his business to examine taps, and after promising to send new taps has asked for sums varying from a dollar to a dollar and a half, giving chits and signing them "John Whiley." Ultimately his doings got to the ears of the police, who laid hands on him.

HONGKONG.

The appointments of Mr. J. W. Jones, Acting Deputy Registrar and Accountant, to be Acting Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, and of Mr. C. J. Xavier to be Acting Deputy Registrar and Accountant, during the absence on leave of Mr. A. Seth, are notified in the *Gazette*.

On the 10th inst. Inspector Baker visited 24, Queens Road West, and found a roomful of people playing Pai Kan. He arrested 12 of them, including three women. At the Magistracy on the 11th inst. the two keepers of the house were fined \$10 each and the rest \$3 each.

At the Magistracy on the 9th inst. the Chinese fitter at Shaukiwan was arrested on a charge of attempting to murder his wife, appeared before Mr. Hazeland. The wife, however, declined to say a word against her husband. She said a fall was the cause of the injury to her head. The Magistrate bound prisoner over on security of \$100 to appear for sentence when called upon. The woman was taken back to Hospital, but it will be some time before she completely recovers.

At the Magistracy on the 9th inst. the keeper of the boarding-house at 48, Connaught Road, was charged with assaulting a coolie. The complainant said he was brought down from Pakhoi with other coolies, being informed that they could get good wages in Hongkong. When they arrived here they were told that they would have to go Singapore. Upon this the defendant demanded their passage money and payment for the food he had supplied them with, and on them refusing to pay him anything a disturbance took place, during which the defendant threw the complainant downstairs, causing him severe injuries from which he is still suffering. On the application of Mr. Mounsey, the case was adjourned until the 11th inst.

This week a substantial addition was made to our local Indian Famine Relief Fund, when on Wednesday night at the theatre a lecture was delivered by Captain Percy Scott, R. N., C. B., and Captain A. H. Limpus, R. N., of H. M. S. *Terrible*, on the "Mountings of the Naval Guns and their subsequent use with the Ladysmith Relief Column." The lecture was held under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, and H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, the Acting Governor, took the chair, and introduced the lecturers to their audience. The illustrations were supplied by some magic-lantern slides, which Dr. Jordan kindly worked in a lantern lent by him, and the light for the lantern was supplied by the Eastern Acetylene Light Company. The lecture, which was very well received, will be re-issued in book form, with and without illustrations, at the *Daily Press* Office, and the proceeds will be devoted, like the takings of the entertainment, to the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

A Chinese boatman employed on board H. M. S. *Tamar* was charged at the Magistracy on the 12th inst. with assaulting Chinese Constable 299 and damaging his coat. The complainant said that about half-past seven on Monday night he was on duty near Blue Buildings, standing on the wharf, when the defendant came up and called for a sampan. Both he and the defendant were in plain clothes, the defendant being slightly drunk. As the defendant was going down into the boat he nudged him with his shoulder, saying he was in the way, and nearly pushing him into the water. The defendant knocked against him on purpose. On his telling him not to push him the defendant caught hold of his coat and tore it.—Chinese constable 313 corroborated.—The defendant said that on Sunday night he called a boat. The complainant was on the wharf at the time and told the boatman to ask him 20 cents. He said he would give 10 cents. The complainant then said, "Ask him 15 cents." He said he would not pay 15 cents and walked away, the complainant having previously struck a blow at him with his truncheon. He got a boat at the pier near the Cricket Ground. On Monday night he went ashore again. The complainant came up to him and asked him if he was looking for him. He replied no. The complainant then got hold of him and struck him and afterwards took him to the Police Station.—For the assault the defendant was fined \$5 or 14 days and for damaging the constable's coat he was ordered to pay \$3 or go to prison for 14 days.

Mr. Ho Tung is appealing against the decision of the court below in the matter of Ho Tung and the Man On Insurance Company, the appeal being opened yesterday.

As the Magistracy eight more houses used as brothels in Sam To lane and Second Street were ordered to be closed within 24 hours on account of their being in a prohibited area.

Three men charged with being implicated in the armed attack on the *Fook-Sang* while on her way to Sam Chun on the 13th May have been brought up at the Magistracy and remanded until the 19th inst. Two of the men were arrested in Macao and the other in Hongkong.

An excise officer of 15 years' standing, named Ip Man Tai, was charged at the Magistracy with attempting to smuggle opium into the colony. The man arrived at about two o'clock in the morning by the boat from Canton. He being suspected an Indian excise officer searched him and found opium on his person. A fine of \$100, or two months, was imposed.

The other day a junk which was at Capsuimoon was boarded by six men, who attacked the master and the other occupants with knives, inflicting several injuries upon them, subsequently taking away with them the oars. The matter was reported to the Police at Pinshan, and the ringleader was arrested. It transpired that the attack was the result of a quarrel between the master of the junk and the ringleader.

We have received from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh a copy of a small paper-covered volume *Life A for China*, a brief memorial sketch of the late Dr. Chalmers of Hongkong, compiled by Mr. George Cousins. Born in 1825 and dying at the end of last year, Dr. Chalmers first arrived in Hongkong in 1852 with his wife; here he stayed seven years, then removed to Canton, whence he returned to the island in 1878 to act as senior Missionary of the London Missionary Society. This post he retained until just before his death, so that his experience of this part of the world was surpassed by none. Appreciations of his character and the value of his work from the pens of two of his colleagues, the Rev. F. Storrs Turner and the Rev. T. W. Pearce, form a fitting conclusion to the little volume.

Among the arrivals on the 8th inst. was Mr. H. A. Ramsden, late British Vice-Consul at Manila. He has been transferred to Havana. Mr. Ramsden was very popular in Manila and had a most trying time during the siege of that city. His father was British Consul in Cuba and lost his life through the treatment he was subjected to during the war in defending American interests. Another arrival is Mr. T. Cowen, who has given up the editorship of the *Manila Times* and is going home. Manila does not appear now to be an ideal place to reside in, and many residents have regretted the change from the charming old city in Spanish days to its present condition. The cost of living is also said to have doubled since then.

At the Magistracy on the 11th inst. a house coolie named Kwan Shun, in the employ of Mr. Oscar Levy, was charged with stealing a silver watch a gold filled watch, four gold studs, and some foreign silver coins, the total value being set down at \$67.50. Mr. Levy missed the articles on the 9th inst., and as his house coolie had absconded he suspected him of taking them. He accordingly reported his loss to the police. The same evening Sergeant Murison traced the delinquent to a brothel in Third Street. He had one of the watches in his possession, and took the officer to the pawnshop where he had pawned the other. He also took him to the shop where he had sold the gold studs. The Magistrate sentenced him to six months imprisonment.—The man who had bought the gold studs was then charged with being in unlawful possession. It was stated on behalf of the police that Sergeant Murison, accompanied by a Chinese constable and the defendant in the previous case, went to a gold and silver shop at 39, Queen's Road East. The house coolie asked the master where the gold studs were which he had sold him, telling him he would return him the \$3.60 paid to him if he would let him have them back. The man said he had melted them, and the Sergeant asked him to produce the gold. He did so. Mr. Reece was for the defence, and after hearing what he had to say Mr. Hazeland discharged the man.

Sanitary Inspector Mills, who has been suffering from plague, was discharged from hospital on the 9th inst.

A Chinaman of no occupation was prowling about the first and second floors of No. 9, Praya Central, on the 7th inst. about midnight in search of valuables to lay his hands on, when to his regret he was caught by a native watchman in the act of departing with some Chinese clothes. He was brought up before the Court on the 8th inst. and sentenced to three weeks' hard labour.

A Chinaman who was charged at the Magistracy on the 8th inst. with stealing from a house at Yaumati tried to hoodwink His Worship and the police by feigning madness. He commenced gesticulating and making most extraordinary grimaces. His ruse, however, did not succeed. The lukong who arrested him said the man was not insane the previous evening, and Mr. Hazeland sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

Among the unfortunates who appeared before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 8th inst. was a respectably-dressed Irishman who was charged with being a vagrant. He did not deny the charge, but told an interesting story to the Bench. He said that he had only just arrived in the colony from Singapore. He was turned out of Johannesburg by the Boers, and had stopped some time in Zanzibar, afterwards going to Singapore and then coming on to Hongkong. He was unable to work at present, owing to an injury to one of his hands. He added that he stayed at the Criterion Hotel the previous evening.

At the Magistracy on the 13th inst., before Mr. Hazeland, Chung Kan Kau and Wong Man Kai were charged with unlawfully and by fraudulent means bringing four girls from Pakhoi into the colony for the purpose of emigration. Three of the girls are 19 years of age and the fourth 13. One of them said she was a married woman. She was fishing for crabs in her own country when the first defendant came up to her and asked her to go on board a steamer with him. She refused to go, whereupon he struck her and forced her on board. The second defendant was not there at the time. The boat brought her to Hongkong. The other girls gave somewhat similar evidence.—District Watchman 11 said that at about four o'clock that morning he saw the defendants and the two girls in Bonham Strand making straight for the Canton Wharf. He asked the first defendant where he was taking the women to. The man ran away but he caught him. The second defendant said one of the women was his wife.—The first defendant admitted having bought the girls and that he was taking them to Canton.—His Worship said the practice of bringing young girls from Pakhoi and other places had become very common and must be put down. The first defendant would be sent to prison for 12 months and the second, whose case was not so serious, for two months.

The Parsee community, which stands second to none in the matter of loyalty to the British Crown, has representatives in this colony who are never backward to represent the feelings of the main body in the Bombay Presidency. At their premises in Elgin Street on the 10th inst. there was held, under the auspices of Mr. H. N. Mody, the President, and the Trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund of Hongkong, Canton and Macao, a special Jussun service, at which was offered a hearty prayer of thanksgiving for the general success of the British arms in the campaign, and for the particular success of Lord Roberts in his splendid march to Pretoria. The President spoke in very feeling terms of the sacrifices made, and of the bravery displayed by all sections of the British army and the brilliant services of Lord Roberts, who was claimed as an old Indian General. He also alluded to the march from Cabul to Candahar and said that the march to Pretoria was analogous in the matter of the heavy risks and dangers encountered. The whole congregation heartily joined in the sentiments expressed by the President, and ended by a special prayer to the Almighty to "bestow upon our beloved Sovereign the further blessings of a happy reign resplendent with all glory and honour, as also the blessings of the general welfare, unification, and solidarity of Her Majesty's vast dominions, and the annihilation of the Plague and Famine from Her Majesty's Indian Empire."

The Return of Visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 10th June, 1900, show that 360 non-Chinese and 124 Chinese visited the former institution, 171 non-Chinese and 1,812 Chinese the latter.

During the week ending 9th June there were reported 70 fresh cases of plague and 64 deaths. Apart from plague there were only two cases of infectious disease in the Colony last week, one of puerperal fever, within the limits of the City of Victoria; and the other of smallpox, outside. Neither ended fatally.

A post mortem examination of the body of the coxswain of Fenwick's launch, who died on Monday morning, disclosed the fact that the injury inflicted upon him the previous day by the fireman of the launch was not the cause of death. The man had suffered from peritonitis in the stomach, and death was caused by the bursting of an abscess. The injury done by the chisel was only a flesh wound and did not penetrate to any of the internal organs. On the 8th inst. the fireman was charged at the Magistracy with cutting and wounding. He said the deceased threw a cup at him and he replied by throwing a chisel at him. Sentenced to six months' hard labour.

We regret to announce the occurrence of a sad bathing fatality at Kowloon on the night of the 7th inst., Private Parsons, of E. Company, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, losing his life. The deceased and seven comrades were bathing off the beach near the officers' mess when it was suddenly discovered that Parsons was missing. On a search being being instituted he was found floating face downwards in an unconscious condition. He was brought ashore, and the usual means for the resuscitation of the apparently drowned were resorted to, but without result. Surgeon-Major Browne did all that was possible, but after working for close upon two hours it was found that the man was beyond recovery. The body was hereupon removed to the mortuary. The deceased was quite a young man, a good swimmer, and much liked by his comrades.

Warrant Officer Milligan, who left on the 9th inst. for England, has not been allowed to leave the colony without taking with him tangible tokens from the "A" and "C" Machine Gun Companies of the H. V. C. of their appreciation of his services as instructor. The presentations were made at the Volunteer Institute last night. On behalf of "A" Company, Captain Sanders presented their late Instructor with a beautiful silver cup and a bank draft, the Captain delivering a most happy little speech in making the presentation. Three hearty cheers and a tiger for Mr. Milligan followed, after which the recipient made an appropriate reply. Subsequently Lieutenant Underwood, on behalf of "C" Company, and in the absence of Captain Potts, presented the late Instructor with a silver watch and gold chain and pendant, the latter being appropriately inscribed. The departure of Warrant Officer Milligan is sincerely regretted by the Machine Gun Companies, he having proved himself an ideal instructor.

Still another case of piracy has been reported to the police. On the 8th inst. the cook of the steam-launch *Lee Yik* put in an appearance at the Water Police Station, and gave particulars of the attack. It seems that the launch left the harbour at about half-past three on the 7th inst. for Canton, towing two kerosine lighters. At six o'clock, when near the Brothers, which lie between Castlepeak and Lantau, two boats laden with men came alongside and the occupants of the launch were terrified by the firing of a musket. The pirates made fast to the launch, cut the lighters adrift and left one of their own boats behind, and steered away in a westerly direction. The cook of the launch jumped overboard and was picked up by a passage boat, which brought him on to Hongkong. Later on in the day the master of one of the lighters arrived in the harbour. He reported that the wind being favourable, when the launch left them, they sailed away to the Customs Station at Lai Chau, where the lighters were left. Early on the 9th inst. the launch returned to Hongkong. The master informed the police that the pirates took the launch away to Tan Shui Ho, in the Tung Kun district beyond the Bocca forts, where they went ashore in boats apparently waiting for them. They took with them from the launch \$645, money which was being taken to Canton to pay the dues on the kerosine.

Consul-General Wildman and family have left Hongkong for a four or five weeks holiday in Japan.

At the Magistracy on the 14th inst. eleven men were committed for trial for being concerned in an armed robbery on three fishing junks in Kowloon Bay on the night of the 18th May. The occurrence took place at 11 o'clock at night. Several shots were fired, and a fisherman was wounded in the foot. The robbers decamped with property of the value of \$281. Soon after their departure the police patrol hove in sight. The affair was reported to them, and the neighbourhood was scoured, but without result. The matter was then reported at the Water Police Station, and a party of police set out for To Ko Wan. In three houses which they searched they found some of the stolen property, and the eleven men who were in were arrested.

At the Magistracy on the 8th inst. a Chinaman from Shauiwan was fined \$25 for neglecting to report a case of infectious disease. Inspector Robertson's suspicions had been aroused by seeing a sickly-looking girl at the door of the defendant's house and on the 7th inst. he went inside. Before then he had spoken to the defendant at the door. The defendant denied that there was any smallpox on his premises. He, however, seemed averse to the Inspector entering the house to see for himself, and the Inspector had to push him aside. On going into a back room the Inspector found the mistress trying to hide a boy, who was evidently suffering from a severe attack of small-pox. The Inspector went away in order to get someone to remove the boy, taking a girl who also seemed to have been ailing with him. On his return he found that the boy had been removed, having no doubt been taken away in a sampan or junk. The girl was conveyed to the Hospital where it was found that she had just recovered from small-pox.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A New York telegram of the 6th inst. announces that Commander John McGowan, of the U. S. monitor *Monadnock*, has been suspended for six months.

A letter of a Tientsin lady, received at Shanghai, describes how the volunteers went out to rescue the Paoting-fu refugees and brought them into Tientsin. "By degrees," she writes, "about twenty wretched, worn-out-looking men and women got in here in a bad state, four wounded, one carrying a Boxer flag he had managed to seize and stick to. One poor woman had a baby three days old; it died, but the mother is here quite safe. Poor souls, they had an awful time and have, of course, lost all their homes and belongings. Not only were they chased by Boxers, but Chinese regular soldiers fired on them. However, they killed 63 Chinese between them, and got in with only four wounded, but seven are still missing."

Shanghai papers announce the arrival on the 7th inst. by the *Laos* of Detective Grant, of the Hongkong Police, having in his custody Fritz Max Ulbricht, late Secretary of the German Club in Shanghai, for whose arrest for embezzlement a warrant was issued some weeks ago. The prisoner was lodged in the Central Police Station and in the forenoon was brought up at the German Consulate, before the Consul-General, Dr. Schnitzler, when the charge was formally read to him. In the afternoon, Ulbricht was brought before the Vice-Consul, Dr. Ackermann, and his statement was taken in camera, also particulars as to witnesses he wished to have called, etc. The date of the trial proper is not yet fixed.

The public mind (native) up north is, according to a Tientsin correspondent quoted elsewhere, "almost inconceivably excited. No rubbish is too preposterous for belief—the Boxers can fly, they can spit fire; even the most sober-minded, sensible Chinese are persuaded that they are immune to steel and lead. The infection is running to craziness." The reaction will, of course, he continues, come soon, and Messieurs the Boxers will be discredited as much as they are now exalted. It is the excitement which is the real source of danger in Peking. The mob might, by one act of indiscretion, be led into causes which would end in disaster, especially as the soldiery is a doubtful quantity.

The *Pioneer* passed Kiukiang on Wednesday, 6th June, on her maiden voyage up the Yangtze to Chungking. A telegram has been received stating that the German steamer for the Upper River has passed Suez on her way to Shanghai.

In accordance with a notification from the Treasury Commissioners, the rate of the dollar issued at Hongkong, the Straits Settlements, and on the China Station during the quarter commencing July 1st, has been fixed at one shilling and elevenpence.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The death is reported from Manila on the 6th inst. of Mr. William Johnston, founder and principal partner of the firm of Johnston, Gore, Booth & Co., of Manila. Mr. Johnston was a much esteemed member of the British community and had been out in the Philippines since 1871.

Commenting on the recent horrible affair in Corea, the *Japan Mail* says—"The Emperor of Corea now stands before the world a perjured monarch, unworthy to be again believed. . . . The whole incident is an abominable outrage. There is no law of morality or principle of expediency that requires the civilized world to stand a silent spectator of such horrors. We earnestly hope that Japan will not relax her efforts to contrive some effectual guarantee against any repetition of crimes so shocking. Her own hands were not clean in this matter thirty years ago. But she appreciated and obeyed the necessity of respecting the moral code of the nations with which she had established relations of friendship, and she has therefore a kind of prescriptive right to force Corea into the same civilized route. If she succeeds, these unhappy men, Kwong and An, will not have suffered a shocking death in vain. Their connection with the murder of the Queen—if, indeed, they were connected with it—will have been amply condoned should their fate prove the means of rescuing their country from judicial barbarism."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	21,655,97	2,166,218
Kobe	6,192,96	501,527
	2,784,893	2,667,745

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—The market remains in the same position as reported last week. Quotations for Formosa are:—\$91.75 to \$92.00; sales 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—The prices are advancing a little, holders being firm. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$7.58 to \$7.72 pcl.
do. " 2, White..... 7.15 to 7.18 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.25 to 5.30 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.15 to 5.20 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 7.80 to 7.82 "
do. " 1, White..... 7.18 to 7.20 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.15 to 5.20 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.10 to 5.12 "
Foochow Sugar Candy11.62 to 11.65 "
Shekloong " 9.78 to 9.82 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Bamberg*, sailed on the 22nd May. For Havre:—1 case feathers, 1 case copperware, 5 cases sundries, 6 cases Chinaware, 10 cases blackwoodware, 15 cases camphor, 20 cases bristles, 41 cases human hair, 50 cases tea, 96 bales canes, 97 rolls mats and 100 packages bambooware. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—7 cases ylang ylang, 7 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases Chinaware, 8 cases lanterns, 10 cases canes, 12 cases human hair, 100 bales feathers and 295 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Bordeaux:—245 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg: and/or London:—40 cases essential oil and 3,006 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—1 case gongs, 4 cases bristles, 5 cases private effects, 6 cases sundries, 8 cases Chinaware, 8 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases palm leaf fans, 13 cases human hair, 24 bales bamboos, 100 bales rattan core, 133 bales canes, 208 rolls matting, 209 packages fire-crackers and 254 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or Bremen:—70 rolls matting. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—150 cases bristles. For

Hamburg and/or London:—480 packages canes and 8 cases human hair. For Amsterdam:—13 cases Chinaware. For London:—100 cases camphor. For Buenos Ayres:—2 cases curios, 12 cases blackwoodware, 14 cases Chinaware and 18 cases undries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on the 24th May. For Manchester:—218 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—16 cases blackwoodware. For London:—2,015 bales hemp and 4 cases cigars from Manila, 10 bales duck feathers and 210 ½-chests tea from Foochow, 500 boxes tea, 2 cases gongs, 6 cases copperware, 2 cases silks, 2 cases bird feathers, 60 cases bristles, 285 cases Chinaware, 49 cases blackwoodware, 6 cases curios, 136 rolls mats, 16 packages rattanware, 5 boxes preserves, 4 boxes cigars, 121 bales feathers, 840 packages fire-crackers, 2 cases bicycles, 19 cases private effects and 60 bales canes.

Per steamer *Idomeneus*, sailed on the 26th May. For Liverpool:—4,939 bales hemp, 156 bales mat, 40 bales rope, 10 bales bambooware, 4 cases cigars and 2 packages sundries.

Per steamer *Salazie*, sailed on the 4th June. For Marseilles:—109 bales raw silk, 296 bales waste silk, 9 cases silks, 513 packages tea, 13 cases Chinaware and 2 rolls matting. For Lyons:—362 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk.

The P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat* sailed on the 9th June. For London:—9 cases cigars from Manila, 12 bales feathers and 582 boxes tea from Foochow, 12,031 boxes tea, 20 cases bristles, 1 case bird feathers, 1 package matting sample, 175 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 1 case silks, and 1 case silks, and plated ware. For Marseilles:—197 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 10 cases hair and 2 cases curios. For Lyons:—371 bales raw silk and 5 packages tea. For New York:—22 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—Malwa.—A few chests changed hands at \$900 for 2/3 years old and \$720 for 4/5 years old.

Bengal.—The market is very quiet. Very little business was done during the week. We quote \$1,020 for New Patna and Benares.

STOCK.

Patna	928 chests.
Benares	231 "
Malwa	400 "
Persian	2,100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 9	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30
June 11	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30
June 12	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30
June 13	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30
June 14	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30
June 15	1,020	1,060	1,020	1,030	870	900/30

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—The rice crops in the mainland are reported favourable, and the prices are consequently further declining. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality	2.95 to 3.00
" Long	3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.25 to 3.30
" White	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th JUNE.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*:—50 bales No. 8 at \$86, 900 bales No. 10 at \$87 to \$93, 650 bales No. 12 at \$91 to \$96, 150 bales No. 16 at \$97 to \$99, 1,300 bales No. 20 at \$99 to \$107.

METALS.—*Quicksilver*.—150 flasks at \$174, 565 flasks at \$171.

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	\$	\$80.00 to \$106.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,		114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24,		116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32,		129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42,		147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	per piece	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25	
8.4 lbs.	2.75 to 3.60	
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.65	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.55 to 2.75	
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.75	
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 4.75	
Fine	5.00 to 7.75	
Book-folds	4.35 to 6.25	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.75 to 1.50	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.65 to 1.80	
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to 2.10	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.80 to 2.00	
7lbs. (32 ")	2.35 to 2.70	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.70 to 3.40	
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.10 to 7.00	
FANCY COTTONS—		
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs }	1.75 to 7.00	
Brocades—Dyed	4.20 to 5.20	
Chintzes—Assorted	per yard 0.08½ to 0.17	
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.65	
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	per dozen 0.40 to 2.00	
WOOLLENS—		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	per yard 0.90 to 1.70	
German	to —	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.55 to 1.75	
Long Ells—Scarlet	per piece 6.70 to 10.30	
Assorted	6.80 to 10.40	
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 21.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	11.50 to 22.00	
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per pair 4.20 to 16.00	
METALS—		
Iron—Nail Rod	per picul 5.75 to —	
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	5.80 to —	
Swedish Bar	8.00 to —	
Small Round Rod	6.50 to —	
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.75 to —	
Wire 15/25	9.50 to —	
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —	
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	10.50 to —	
Australian	10.00 to —	
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —	
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —	
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —	
New Chop, 14/20 oz.	to —	
Composition Nails	65.00 to —	
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.50 to —	
Tin	80.00 to —	
Tin-Plates	per box 7.75 to —	
Steel ½ to ¾	per cwt. case 6.75 to —	
SUNDRIES—		
Quicksilver	per picul 173.50 to —	
Window Glass	per box 6.50 to —	
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case 2.86 to —	

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 15th June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½

ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3½ p.c.m.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2½ p.c.m.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	117½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3 p.c.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½ p.c.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.13
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.80
BAR SILVER, per ox.	27½

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—A fair general business has been transacted during the week under review at steady rates, except in Docks and Lands, which show a rise, and in Banks, which have declined.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks in the early part of the week ruled very steady and changed hands in fair lots at 318 per cent. premium. A decline in the London rate of £2 however stopped business and the quotation quickly fell to 315 per cent. premium, at which the market closes. Nationals have found small buyers at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been placed in small lots at \$54½, Unions at \$265, and Cantons at \$132½. In the absence of local business in the northern insurances the quotations are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain dull with only a small business at \$295. Chinas changed hands at \$79½ and \$79.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao changed hands in the early part of the week at \$31½, \$31½ and \$31½, but close easier with sellers at \$31½. Indos have ruled quiet and with shares offered from the North the rate fell without business to \$86, and shares then changed hands at \$85. Douglasses, China Manilas, and China Mutuels unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars and Luzons quite neglected and without any business to report.

MINING.—The market has ruled very dull and there is but little business to report. Punjoms have been quiet at \$6 with small sales. Jelebus have changed hands at \$12½ and Raubs at \$58. Queens, Caledonians, and Olivers without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in demand, and with no shares obtainable the rate quickly improved to \$530, whilst sales are reported at \$550 for August. The market closes steady at \$530. Kowloon Wharfs remain quiet with only small sales at \$86. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have advanced considerably from \$134 with fair sales at intermediate rates to \$139, whilst sales were effected as high as \$140 for cash and \$141 and \$142 for August. The market closes steady at \$139. Hotels have been placed at \$125, closing quiet with sellers at that rate. West Points have found buyers at \$48 and \$42½ closing firm at the latter rate. Humphreys have been enquired for at \$10½ and small sales have been made at \$10.60 and \$10.75; at \$10.75 however further shares are obtainable.

COTTONS.—Hongkongs remain unchanged and without business. Quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from the last Shanghai Circular.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have found further buyers at \$21½ but more shares are obtainable at that rate. Tramways have been placed at \$170. Dairy Farms at \$8½ and Watkins at \$10. No further business to report under this heading.

Closing quotation are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	[518½, buyers
China & Japan, ordy.	24	315 p. ct. prem.=
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	28	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$16, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.90, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$125, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$37, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$11.85, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$170, sales & bys.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$125, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$165, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$86½, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	530 p. ct. prem.=
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$132½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$79, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$55, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$295, sales & sella.
North-China	225	Tls. 165.
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$50	\$265, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$121, sales & sella.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$139, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10.60, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$25½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½, buyers
Luzons Sugar	\$100	\$36.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$290, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	50 cents
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cents
Jelebu	\$5	\$12.25, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	18 cents
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$3½.
Do. B.	\$4½	\$2½.
Punjom	\$7	\$6.10.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30.
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$58, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$22, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	{ \$100, o.c., n. issue
		{ \$65, s. ex. n. issue
China Mutual Pref.	210	210 10s.
China Ordinary	210	210 10s, sellers
Do.	25	25 5s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$48, sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$31½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$86, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	2100	\$310.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$18, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½, sales
D.	\$10	\$11, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$56, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Clyde (str.), Socotra (str.), Chingwo (str.), Benalder (str.), Antenor (str.), Stenior (str.), Menelaus (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—Indus (str.), Socotra (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Oldenburg (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Silesia (str.), Wittenberg (str.), Savoia (str.), Sambia (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Glenogte (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of India (str.).
FOR PORTLAND, O.—Argyll (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.), America Maru (str.), City of Peking (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Albenga (str.), Armenia (str.), Acara (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Thyra (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

- June—
 8, *Hermes*, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 8, *Silesia*, German str., from Hamburg.
 9, *Taisang*, British str., from Canton.
 9, *Nanchang*, British str., from Canton.
 9, *Hailan*, French str., from Pakhoi.
 9, *Manchuria*, Russian str., from Singapore.
 9, *Benlarig*, British str., from Shanghai.
 9, *Anping Maru*, Jap. str., from Anping.
 9, *Fuh-wo*, British str., from Foochow.
 9, *Haimun*, British str., from Swatow.
 9, *Mongkut*, German str., from Bangkok.
 9, *Namyong*, British str., from Straits.
 9, *Rossija*, Russian str., from Odessa.
 9, *St. Andrews*, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 9, *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., from Canton.
 10, *Fushun*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 10, *Kashing*, British str., from Canton.
 10, *Haiching*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 10, *Milos*, German str., from Seattle.
 10, *Taiwan Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.
 10, *Tientsin*, British str., from Wuhu.
 10, *Victoria*, Swedish str., from Samarang.
 10, *Canton*, British str., from Canton.
 11, *Agamemnon*, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, *Awa Maru*, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 11, *Diomed*, British str., from Moji.
 11, *Hangchow*, British str., from Chefoo.
 11, *Hoihao*, French str., from Pakhoi.
 11, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.
 11, *Hue*, French str., from Haiphong.
 11, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 11, *Progress*, German str., from Tourn.
 11, *Sarnia*, German str., from Foochow.
 11, *Clara*, German str., from Haiphong.
 11, *Keongwai*, German str., from Bangkok.
 11, *Pronto*, German str., from Canton.
 11, *Taiyo Maru*, Japanese str., from Oanton.
 11, *Holstein*, German str., from Saigon.
 12, *Bayern*, German str., from Hamburg.
 12, *Drummond*, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, *Haimun*, British str., from Swatow.
 12, *D. J. de Austria*, Amr. g-bt., from Canton.
 12, *Sachsen*, German str., from Yokohama.
 12, *Loongsang*, British str., from Iloilo.
 12, *Shantung*, British str., from Hongay.
 13, *Hermes*, Norw. str., from Canton.
 13, *Chinkiang*, British str., from Tongku.
 13, *Socotra*, British str., from Kobe.
 13, *Benmohr*, British str., from Saigon.
 13, *Germania*, German str., from Saigon.
 13, *Kweiyang*, British str., from Tientsin.
 13, *Tetartos*, German str., from Saigon.
 13, *Burden*, British str., from Cardiff.
 13, *Daphne*, German str., from Swatow.
 13, *Ningpo*, British str., from Wuhu.
 13, *Tamsui Maru*, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 13, *Choysang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, *Formosa*, British str., from Tamsui.
 14, *Kansu*, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, *Menmuir*, British str., from Manila.
 14, *Kwongsang*, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, *Trieste*, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 14, *Thales*, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 14, *Kiangsi*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 14, *Shansi*, British str., from Canton.
 14, *Siam*, Danish str., from Singapore.
 14, *Emma Luyken*, Ger. str., from Newchwang.
 15, *Haimun*, British str., from Swatow.
 15, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.
 15, *Kagoshima Maru*, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 15, *Wittenberg*, German str., from Hamburg.
 15, *M. L. Schepp*, Amr. bark, from Hakodate.
 15, *Apenrade*, German str., from Haiphong.
- June—
 9, *Ballaarat*, British str., for Europe.
 9, *City of Rio de Janeiro*, American str., for San Francisco.
 9, *Triumph*, Amr. str., for Saigon.
 9, *Fausang*, British str., for Hongay.
 9, *Bormida*, Italian str., for Bombay.
 9, *Rohilla*, British str., for Yokohama.
 9, *Sabine Rickmers*, Brit. str., for Swatow.
 10, *Maidzuru Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 10, *Hating*, French str., for Haiphong.
 10, *Tsurugisan Maru*, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 10, *Sullberg*, German str., for Chefoo.
 10, *Toyo Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 10, *Michael Jebson*, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 10, *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.
 10, *Belgian King*, Brit. str., for S. Francisco.
 10, *Sishan*, British str., for Swatow.
 11, *Nanchang*, British str., for Swatow.

- 11, *Namyong*, British str., for Amoy.
 11, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Canton.
 11, *Rossija*, Russian str., for Vladivostock.
 11, *Taisang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, *Kashing*, British str., for Moji.
 11, *Tientsin*, British str., for Canton.
 11, *Linnet*, British g-v., for Weihaiwei.
 12, *Manchuria*, Russian str., for Port Arthur.
 12, *Benlarig*, British str., for London.
 12, *Sarnia*, German str., for Hamburg.
 12, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.
 12, *Shantung*, German str., for Saigon.
 12, *Lyeemoon*, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Hangchow*, British str., for Canton.
 12, *Devawongse*, British str., for Bangkok.
 12, *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.
 12, *Taiyo Maru*, Jap. str., for Chefoo.
 12, *Fuh Wo*, British str., for Singapore.
 12, *Pronto*, German str., for Chefoo.
 12, *Mausang*, British str., for Sandakan.
 12, *Canton*, British str., for Swatow.
 12, *Catherine Apar*, British str., for Calcutta.
 12, *Bayern*, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Haiching*, British str., for Swatow.
 13, *P. C. Klao*, British str., for Bangkok.
 13, *Drummond*, British str., for Singapore.
 13, *Gisela*, Italian str., for Bombay.
 13, *Wongkoi*, British str., for Swatow.
 13, *Awa Maru*, Japanese str., for London.
 13, *Anping Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 13, *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.
 13, *Braemar*, British str., for Portland, Or.
 13, *Hue*, French str., for Kwongchauwan.
 13, *Fushun*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, *Agamemnon*, British str., for London.
 13, *Chinkiang*, British str., for Canton.
 14, *Sachsen*, German str., for Europe.
 14, *Hongkong*, French str., for Haiphong.
 14, *Hoihao*, French str., for Hoihow.
 14, *Hermes*, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 14, *Taiwan Maru*, Jap. str., for Moji.
 14, *Kweiyang*, British str., for Canton.
 14, *Choysang*, British str., for Canton.
 14, *Ningpo*, British str., for Canton.
 14, *Clara*, German str., for Hoihow.
 14, *Victoria*, Swedish str., for Newchwang.
 14, *Passpartout*, Norw. bk., for P. Townsend.
 14, *Abner Coburn*, Amr. ship, for P. Townsend.
 15, *Silesia*, German str., for Yokohama.
 15, *Shansi*, British str., for Wuhu.
 15, *Loosok*, British str., for Bangkok.
 15, *Eskdale*, British str., for Manila.
 15, *Hinsang*, British str., for Taku.
 15, *Kutsang*, British str., for Swatow.
 15, *Benvenue*, British str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Chas. Andrews and son, Miss Caroline Braun, Mrs. W. E. Dubos, Mrs. L. B. Grandy and son, Mr. J. G. Judson, Mrs. L. M. Lang, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Kellam, Lieut. A. A. McKethan, U.S.N., Mrs. I. B. Parker and two children, Mrs. W. E. Musgrave, Mrs. J. B. Schoeffel, Mrs. W. W. Smith, Mrs. Mary Stephenson, Comdr. T. H. Stephenson, U.S.N., Miss Stella White, Capt. Jno. Parke, U.S.A., Messrs. T. D. McKay, C. H. Hay, H. E. Moop, R. Natiesta and Mrs. Suarez.
- Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Lants and Dr. Lacazi.
- Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Hoyt and Mr. Monolini.
- Per *Hue*, from Haiphong, &c., Madame Rause, Monsiars Rause, Prodhomme, Escunde and Mr. Lamaur.
- Per *Awa Maru*, from Kobe, for Hongkong, Messrs. F. T. McNeerney and K. Kitagaditchi; for Marseilles, Messrs. T. Noda and Y. Handa; for London, Mr. S. Sadurai and Mrs. Molinia.
- Per *Bayern*, from Hongkong, from Hamburg, Mrs. Missel and child, Miss Else Trumpf; from Genoa, Capt. G. Hummel, Messrs. Arthur Duffner, Ludwig Müller, Robert Pape, Johs. Thun, Mr. and Mrs. Rud. Ott and Mr. Heintz. Spillmann; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. C. Reber; from Penang, Mr. G. D. Musso; from Singapore, Capt. G. Duff and Mr. John Weir.
- Per *Sachsen*, from Yokohama, Messrs. Inglis Stockwell, A. S. F. Vermont, C. S. Owen, Claude Browne, Stevens and family, Charles Robinson, Miss Milliard, Mr. Geo. G. Shaw, Dr. E. Mead, Messrs. H. C. Graves, Jr., Henry Loy, R. M. Gay and family, Brunese and Isgro Giovanni.
- Per *Choysang*, from Shanghai, Lieut. Jetwall and Mr. Redhead.

Per *Menmuir*, from Manila, Capt. Harford (H.B.M. Consul), Mrs. J. S. Stelzig, Miss Fraser, Mrs. G. Wilson, Mrs. S. Price, Mr. and Mrs. Lara, Messrs. S. Angeles, Logan, Herman, J. Gerena, A. Ramayos, H. Schelenbann, J. S. Epperly, A. Dupois, A. Stutshoff, Wm. Klein, Comdr. Bowman, U.S.N., Mr. F. J. Duncan, Lieut. Lyons, Messrs. J. Camacho, F. J. Coleman, J. L. H. Smith, P. Hornwity, Master Hornwity, Messrs. D. Coates, S. O. Godansky, S. Dick, M. Santebanes, L. H. B. Harris, J. B. Cuthbert, H. Masiyama, E. A. Tomlinson, Kelly Thomas, E. Tobson and M. Kechter.

Per *Thales*, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Mr. Köhler.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rohilla*, from Hongkong, for Nagasaki, Messrs. Cheong Ming Ky, Oyasu, Okiku, Chan Kim and Hom Da; for Kobe, Messrs. Chan, Hang Kee, Hang Fat Shing, E. Leopold and Mrs. Law See; for Yokohama, Mr. Tai Tuck Ting.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. M. B. Cohn and C. B. Cumming, Mrs. Holder, Messrs. Brame, C. S. Gubbay, A. H. Mahomed and F. D. Burdett; for Bombay, Messrs. E. Ormiston, S. N. Nissim, D. S. Shelim and J. S. Tayahally; for Marseilles, Mr. John Farry; for London, Master Gunner Stretton and family, Master Gunner Milligan and family, Sergt. Eyres and family and Mr. A. E. Jolly; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. J. McKenzie, Mrs. and Miss Hunter, Miss Stockwell and Mr. A. J. McClure; from Yokohama, for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. How; for London, Messrs. W. Hilliers and W. B. Newman.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Shanghai, Messrs. W. J. Solly, R. A. Dowler, H. A. Ramsden, T. Cowen and Chas. Kuhn; for Kobe, Mr. A. Abdoolalli; for Yokohama, Messrs. R. Wildman, Matsuda, Mrs. R. Wildman and infant, one European maid and one amah, Master R. Wildman, Jr., and Mr. C. Abdulla; for San Francisco, Miss M. Wotherspoon, Mrs. G. S. MacKinnon, Miss Florence Woodall; for Vancouver, Mr. P. Wagstaff; for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. Forstmann.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mrs. W. E. Musgrave, Mrs. W. E. Dubos, Mrs. L. M. Lang, Mrs. E. R. Kellam, Miss C. Braun, Miss Annie S. Tilbury, Mrs. L. B. Grandy, Master Alfred Grandy, Messrs. T. H. W. Price, E. R. Kellam, J. G. Judson, Lieut. Fred. B. Ducken, Messrs. Ludusig Muller, Frank T. McNeerney, Capt. J. S. Parke, U.S.A., Comdr. T. H. Stevens, U.S.N., Lieut. A. A. McKethan, U.S.N., Mrs. Mary Hawkins and Mr. Maurice Allix.

Per *Bayern*, for Shanghai, from Hamburg, Mr. Grainger and family, Miss Schroeder and Mr. E. Gehrke; from Genoa, Messrs. P. Luckner, C. Westphal and T. Morat; from Naples, Capt. Kirchoff and Mr. T. Michels; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Mees; from Singapore, Mr. G. Weisschott and Miss Pietschmann; from Hongkong, Messrs. F. Hauch, A. Rouffart, A. R. Carre, A. Flegelbaub and A. Hillebrandt; for Nagasaki, from Hamburg, Mr. Thummeler; from Penang, Misses Kimora, Oinesan and Otone; from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. M. Eisentark, Mr. and Mrs. M. Schairman; for Hiogo, from Genoa, Messrs. A. Fiaschi and E. Kellner; for Yokohama, from Hamburg, Mr. Müller; from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Bonhard and E. Delbanco.

Per *Sachsen*, from Japan, for Penang, Mrs. C. H. Wilson and child, Messrs. A. C. Hardonen and O. Okoto; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ellon, Mrs. F. M. Bengen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellerton, Mrs. F. Hansen and child, Mr. R. Okata, Prof. Dr. Kaganai and Prof. Bahlson; for London, Miss Bersang; for Bremen, Capt. B. Müller, Messrs. H. Timm and M. Schiff; from Shanghai, for Genoa, Mr. James Murray; for London, Messrs. J. Northey, J. Smith, B. Bourie, H. Arthur and G. Woolley; for Antwerp, Mr. E. Zewen; for Hamburg, Mr. J. Johannsen; from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. W. W. Smith; for Penang, Mr. A. S. F. Vermouth; for Colombo, Messrs. H. Snow and W. W. Toller; for Genoa, Mrs. P. Sachse, Mrs. and Miss J. Y. V. Vernon, Mr. and Miss C. Heermann and Capt. H. Meyer; for London, Messrs. J. Frazer and V. Engling; for Bremen, Capt. Forstensen; for Hamburg, Capt. Pedersen and Mr. H. Johannsen.

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